VISIT

TO THE

PORTUGUESE POSSESSIONS

IN

SOUTH-WESTERN AFRICA.

BY

G. TAMS, M.D.

Translated from the German, with an Introduction and Annotations,

BY H. EVANS LLOYD, ESQ.

DEDICATED BY PERMISSION TO

SIR EDWARD NORTH BUXTON, BART.

VOL. I.

LONDON:
PUBLISHED BY T. C. NEWBY,
MORTIMER STREET, CAVENDISH SQUARE.

W. & R. WOODCOCK, PRINTERS,
BRUNSWICK STREET, HACKNEY ROAD.

DEDICATION.

TO

SIR EDWARD FOWELL BUXTON, BART.

MY DEAR SIR EDWARD,

To you, as the heir and representative of your venerated father's sentiments and sympathies, with regard to Africa, I am happy to dedicate the following account of a recent visit to the Portuguese possessions on the South-western Coast of that vast continent, given by an impartial and intelligent German, who

confirms, from personal observation, all that has already been asserted, of the demoralizing effects of the slave-trade on those who are concerned in it. He represents the attention of the few European inhabitants, as engrossed by the desire of rapidly acquiring wealth by this impious traffic, to the utter neglect of the immense resources of those extensive countries, which so abound in all the most valuable productions of the three kingdoms of nature, as to offer an inexhaustible source of riches, prosperity, and happiness, if man would only stretch forth his hand, to receive the gifts which nature is ready to shower down upon him, nay, which she actually casts at his feet, while

he will not take the trouble to gather them up.

> "But what avails this wond'rous waste of wealth—
> This gay profusion of luxurious bliss?
> This pomp of nature? What their balmy meads,
> Their pow'rful herbs, and Ceres void of pain?
> What all that Afric's golden rivers roll—
> Her odorous woods and shining ivory shores!"

Our author replies, "Nothing, so long as they shall groan under the curse of the slave-trade," the total abolition of which, he declares to be the only, but, nevertheless the certain, means to raise Africa from the awful state of degradation to which she has been reduced; and to realise the bright prospects which animated the hopes, and stimulated the exertions of your late revered father; and which, though clouded for a

time by unlooked-for disappointment and saddened by the death of the brave, are, nevertheless, still cherished with confidence and hope by those who loved him, and were honourably associated with him in promoting this great and good cause.

I remain, Dear Sir,

Yours very truly,

H. EVANS LLOYD.

London, Oct. 1845.

INTRODUCTION.

Sixty years have now elapsed since the attention of the English nation was aroused, and its feelings of humanity shocked, by the revelation of the horrors of the negro slave-trade; which were for the first time presented to its notice, in all their naked deformity, by the venerable Thomas Clarkson, and brought before Parliament by Mr. Wilberforce, in 1788. To dwell on the arduous conflict which humanity and justice had to sustain against self-interest and prejudice, would be wholly irrelavant here, even by one who witnessed its commencement, and who has lived to hail its noble conclusion in the triumph, not only of feeling, but of principle; but, it deserves to be noted as a remarkable

fact, that the interest felt by the nation, in the question has never flagged; that as one step has been achieved, another has been attempted, till the victory—so far at least, as we were concerned—was consummated by a sacrifice, which, for its extent, and the unanimous generosity with which it was made, stands without parallel in the history of the human race.

Yet, not content with this success, Great Britain continues to exert herself with unremitting energy, and, at an enormous expense, by treaties with other nations, and by the employment of an armed-force, to obtain the total extinction of the negro slave-trade. But facts unhappily testify, that notwithstanding every effort, the extent of this odious traffic is not diminished, that the horrors of the middle-passage have even increased: and, that in spite of our treaties with foreign powers, the flags of more than one of them are still shamelessly abused to cover vessels engaged in this service. Let us hope that our new treaty with France may prove more effectual.

Britain fondly hoped that, as the United States of North America were the first to abolish the foreign trade by law—though they refused the right of search—they would co-operate with her, and share with her the glory of suppressing this nefarious traffic; but, a fact of appalling import has been revealed within these few days, which, there is every reason to apprehend, proves to demonstration that what could not bear the bright blaze of day, was to be carried on in silence and in darkness. The circumstance is so remarkable, that we give at length the paragraph which announced it:

"The fate of the American steam frigate Missouri, will not soon be forgotten. There was something marvellous about it—something that set speculation, and even superstition, at work, without, however, the smallest legitimate material to work upon. A noble war steamer, eclipsing any vessel of that class in the British navy, and evidently intended to astonish the world, suddenly appears one Saturday afternoon at Gibraltar. She steers straight past some

British vessels anchored at a safe distance from the shore, aad drops her anchor so near, that, as she steers in shore, she has not more than five feet under her bottom. The British spectators are seized with wonder at the size, the beauty, the armament, and, above all, at the daring of the stranger. Well might they be aghast at the spectacle of these rapid evolutions, performed within a bowsprit's length by a ship of nearly 2,000 tons, 250-feet long, with 350 men on board, carrying 28 enormous guns, and pierced for 44. They look and look again, and count her guns, and admire her beautiful equipment, and are near enough to hear the conversation on board. The captain and chief officers land, and go off to dinner at the American Consul's. The British visitors go down to tea, and have not finished their second cup when they are called to the deck with the cry that "the steamer's on fire." She is on fire; and after the preservation of the crew, and every attempt to preserve the vessel by the crews of the surrounding British vessels, she is utterly con-

sumed, and, before next morning, lies at the bottom, a shapeless mass of charred timbers and old iron.

A strange discovery has added to the materials of speculation without removing the general perplexity. The wreck and cargo of the Missouri are in the hands of the divers. Day after day they are bringing up doubtless much that a British sailor will easily divine by the analogy of civilized navigation and warfare. But what does he imagine the divers are now bringing up in great quantities day by day, and carrying off in cartloads to their store? Slave shackles of every strength and size, for men and women, old and young. A correspondent of undoubted authority has sent us three specimens, a family group, for father, mother, and child. They are such as are used in the slave-trade, and are own brothers to those found on board vessels engaged in the traffic. Were the wreck to be judged by these alone, the divers might conclude the Missouri to be a gigantic slaver, designed to meet with the arguments of Lynch law

the intricacies of the right of search. But, of course, the Missouri was not a slaver. So what mean these countless suits of iron?

Till the question is answered from Washington we can only conjecture somewhat wildly. We feel as if we had broken into what we supposed an old wine-cellar, and had found rings in the wall, stocks, and chains. It is impossible not to pursue the discovery. The world will expect with impatience some account of so suspicious a ballast. But, was there ever an incident so strange as this sober, business-like fact? No sooner has the anchor of the Missouri touched the British soil below the common sea, than her villainous cargo burns within her, sinks her, drops out of her, and is recovered only to be hung up to universal infamy. The slave touches the British soil, and his shackles fall to the ground. Such is their irresistible gravitation, that the strong hold of the war-frigate cannot retain them. They break through its ribs, or they glow into candid heat, and do not suffer the sun to set before they have involved the

vessel with all her wealth and armament in a common destruction. Better ship a thousand tons of sea-water than so fatal a freight.

"If a demonstration were intended, one more fatal to the pretensions of America for philanthropy can hardly be conceived; better far had it been that the Missouri had foundered in mid-ocean with her crew, than that they should have survived to so endless a shame. But we wait to hear the American version of the Missouri's doubtful charter and mysterious bill of lading. They owe to themselves and the world some decent solution, if any such is possible.—*The Times, Sept.* 20.

But the English are not a people to be discouraged by temporary disappointment in the pursuit of an object, which they know to be right, and upon the attainment of which they have set their heart. The abolition of the African slave-trade is unquestionably such an object; hence, they welcome with joy and gratitude any information which may animate their hopes, assist in directing their steps, and hold out the prospect of

some advances towards the realisation of their most ardent desire—the entire suppression of the slave-trade, and the civilization of Africa.

It may, therefore, be expected that they will receive with satisfaction the following account of a visit to the Portuguese possessions, in South-western Africa, as affording the latest information respecting the present state of those extensive regions, given by an intelligent traveller, who appears to have made the best use of the short time which he passed on that coast.

These vast countries being the source from which the slave-markets of Brazil and Cuba are partly supplied, it is peculiarly interesting to know by whom, and for whose benefit, the trade is now carried on; and what advantages, if any, the mother country derives from it.

Now it appears, from Dr. Tams' work, that the slave-trade is in the hands of a few individuals, many of whom are not natives of Portugal, but have been sent to those colonies as convicts,

often for crimes of the deepest dye; that they are not subject to any controul or restriction, but are at liberty to direct every effort to one sole object—the rapid acquisition of wealth; that the slave-trade alone paralyses every endeavour to improve the boundless commercial advantages which might be derived from the infinite variety and excellence of the natural productions of the country, and that this dominant evil reduces these colonies, which might become the most flourishing in the world, to a state of dependence on Brazil, and even on Europe, not only for many of the luxuries, but even for the daily necessaries of life.

Dr. Tams is borne out in this opinion by the concurrent testimonies of numerous intelligent and highly honourable men, among the foremost of whom we must rank the late excellent Sir Thomas Fowell Buxton, whose valuable work, "The Slave Trade and its Remedy," contains much important information on this point. It is the calm and deliberate conviction of these gentlemen, that the interests of Portugal herself would

be infinitely promoted by the conscientious observance of her treaties with Great Britain, for the suppression of the slave-trade; and, at no distant time, by the complete abolition of domestic slavery itself, in her African possessions, which are far more extensive than those of any other European nation on that coast.

Portugal, when she first planted her royal standard on the shores of Africa, had more respect to her own commercial interests, as well as to her responsibilities, in the acquisition of such vast territorial possessions, inhabited by a people who were strangers alike to her civilization and to her religion. Many and successful were her endeavours in the early part of her sway, for introducing both into her infant and benighted colonies; but these soon gave way before the cupidity and avarice of her subjects, who found that the merchandise of men held out the prospect of greater returns than even the luxuriant produce of the soil. To dwell upon the results, would be to unfold a volume of horrors, the outline of which is known to all the world.

Would that the time past might suffice for these evils, and that the dawn of better things, which, a few years since gleamed upon the minds of the statesmen of Portugal herself would arouse her to act more promptly and decidedly upon the measures which were then proposed. The document which these more enlightened men presented to their sovereign, is as remarkable as it is praiseworthy, and we make no apology for introducing it at length :—

"MADAM—The civilization of Africa has been, during these latter times, the favourite idea of philanthropists, and an object of assiduous attention to the principal governments, which both in the old and the new world lead to the advancement, and promote the amelioration of the human race: while Portugal, which had laboured for centuries in this great work, now, instead of promoting it, throws obstacles in its way. The first title which our great kings, your Majesty's ancestors, added to that of King of Portugal, was that of Lords of Guinea, and of the coun-

tries beyond the seas, in Africa; borne by the hands of our navigators, directed by the daring science of our astronomers, the Portuguese flag waved successively over the seas of Ceuta, the fertile regions bathed by the Senegal and Gambia, and the eastern coast of Africa, where we founded factories, built fortresses, and conquered nations. In our deeds of arms in Africa modern historians have calumniously represented us as trafficking, sword in hand, with the lives and possessions of the nations we discovered; but there is not one document extant which does not prove that the principal, and almost only aim of the Portuguese Government was their civilization by means of the Gospel; trade was but a secondary object, although likewise a means of civilization; and dominion was a necessary consequence, and not an object. The errors of religious doctrine, and the defects of political measures were imputable to the age, not to the men.

"India, in the first instance, and the Brazils next, made us abandon Africa, the most natural

field for our labours; but the colonization of the Brazils and the exploration of its mines, and, soon afterwards, the interest which all other nations took in America, were the greatest enemies to the civilization of Africa, which we alone had begun at so great a sacrifice of our lives and property. The infamous slave traffic is certainly an indelible stain upon the history of modern nations, but we were neither the only, the principal, nor the most guilty. Those of our accomplices, who afterwards reproached us so severely, were deeper in guilt than ourselves. To repair, therefore, the evil done, to prevent its repetition, are duties binding upon the honour of the Portuguese nation, and conducive to the interests of your Majesty's crown; for the dominions which we still possess in that part of the world, are the most extensive, the most important, and the most valuable possessed by any European nation in Southern Africa. In order to appreciate their value, we are to consider not only what they are, but what they are susceptible of. Their present state is owing

not only to the misrule of the mother country, but to the latter having given her almost exclusive attention to the Brazils. The natives of Africa were captured, and conveyed across the Atlantic to enrich a country whose inhabitants refused to exert themselves for its civilization.

"We read in an ancient record, that there were formerly seventeen sugar-mills on the island of St. Thomas, which the Government of Portugal caused to be destroyed, in order not to injure the cultivation of the sugar-cane, which they were then promoting in the Brazils. Our African provinces contain rich mines of gold, copper, iron and precious stones. We can there cultivate all that is cultivated in America. We possess lands of the greatest fertility in the Cape de Verd Islands, in Guinea, Angola, and Mozambique; great and navigable rivers fertilize some of our provinces; and facilitate their commerce. In those vast regions we can cultivate largely the sugar-cane, rice, indigo, coffee, cotton and cocoa; in short, all those articles commonly called colonial, as well as all the

spice plants of the Moluccas and Ceylon, in such abundance as not only to suffice for the consumption of Portugal, but for exportation in very large quantities to the other markets of Europe, and at a less price than those of America; since the African cultivator would not be obliged to seek for, and purchase labourers, and then transport them across the Atlantic, while the high price paid by the Brazilian for the slaves he employs, is further increased by the risks attendant upon the contraband traffic by which he obtains them.

"Let us promote in Africa the colonization of Europeans, the development of its industry, the employment of its capital, and in a few years we shall again derive the same benefits that we formerly did. But for this purpose a thorough reform of our colonial laws is necessary. If any system of legislation can be judged of by its results, none can be worse than that by which our colonies have been ruled. Centuries have passed away since first they came under our dominion, and they are but little more civi-

lized than they were when we conquered them; while, as a contrast, the neighbouring colony of the Cape of Good Hope has, within much less time, increased rapidly in white population and in wealth.

The glory of continuing the great undertaking commenced by King John the Second, was reserved for your Majesty. The civilization of Africa, of which so many powerful nations have despaired, is more feasible to the Queen of Portugal, who holds in her hands the key of the principal gates at which it can enter, and whose authority is obeyed in various parts of that vast continent, at distances of more than two hundred leagues from the sea; and as it was possible for the former sovereigns of Portugal to open roads for civilization, a step which no other prince had ventured upon, so it will be possible to make that beneficial plant thrive and flourish in those regions.

"As an indispensable preliminary to any measures which, for this great purpose, your Majesty, in accordance with the General Cortes,

may take, your Secretaries of State have the honour to propose the following project of a decree for the entire and complete abolition of the slave-trade in your dominions."

(Signed by all the Ministers.)

Foreign Office, December 10, 1836.

Could the Portuguese, at length, be persuaded, not merely to recognise this truth, but to act upon it, a part of the coast, of 12° of latitude, and of unlimited extent in the interior, would be at once delivered; while Portugal herself would most effectually promote her own interest by an act of honour, justice, and mercy. As matters now stand, it would be better for Portugal to cede or to sell the whole country to Great Britain, with the reservation of certain commercial advantages, which would soon far outweigh all that she now derives from so comparatively useless a possession.

But, whatever may be the circumstances under which Great Britain shall prosecute her mighty task of accomplishing the civilization of Africa, she must be impressed with the con-

viction, that this labour of love can never be complete, nay, that the benefits arising from it may prove of a very equivocal nature, unless it be accompanied, I had almost said, preceded, by the propagation of the Christian Religion, in its purest form. The glorious destiny which seems to be reserved for her in the counsels of the Most High, is not only—

> "The fetter'd slave to free;"

But—

> "To burst the bonds of superstition's chain,
> And point the way to Christ's unclouded reign."

H. EVANS LLOYD.

LONDON, OCT. 1845.

PROFESSOR RITTER'S PREFACE.

The interesting notice of the almost unknown little negro kingdom of Ambriz, which was published in the Hamburg Literary Journal, excited in many minds a great desire for further information respecting the expedition of Mr. dos Santos to the tropical west coast of Africa. This desire has been most satisfactorily fulfilled by Dr. Tams, who accompanied that expedition in the character of physician, and who has now published the valuable results of his observations in the following pages.

The learned Doctor's clear, unvarnished description of the manifold diversity of the natural scenery, and of the manners and customs of the

inhabitants of this coast, which is so rich in tropical beauty, and comparatively so little known, will at once commend themselves to the reader. The work needs no eulogium to render it popular, nevertheless, in compliance with the wishes of the publisher, I gladly testify, that in looking over the manuscript, I found much instructive and valuable information. The vivid and faithful representations of the tropical coast of Benguela and Loanda, will transport the reader into the midst of the fine natural scenery and the busy life of these singular races of men. We have nothing recent that can be compared with it. The entrance into Benguela itself, nay, the description of only one day and night, is powerfully attractive; and the same may be said of the greater part of the subsequent details of that coast. The observations on the climate, and mode of life, both of the natives and of the residents, are highly useful and instructive to Europeans. The Doctor introduces many new statements, which he illustrates by facts, and which form an important

addition to our knowledge of the negro tribes, their manners, customs, and character; of the negro caravans, the slave-markets, the custom of tatooing, &c. The accounts of the trade and natural productions of Angola, are very valuable; and, although his sphere of observation is not very extensive, the results are, on that very account, the more ample.

The publication of this work is doubly welcome, because we are in expectation of receiving from our great naturalist, Dr. Peters, the admirable observations made by him on the tropical eastern coast of Central Africa, which will enable us to make a comparison between it and the opposite western coast, as here described by his learned colleague, Dr. Tams. Their residence on this coast, as well as their scientific and professional experience, gave both these gentlemen great advantages over the generality of travellers, who usually hasten past these dangerous shores. The concluding observations on the intellectual capacity and mental powers of the negro tribes of Congo. founded on experience,

are especially valuable; and the promised communications of the scientific essay on the formation of the skull of the Congo tribe, will be valued by all who take an interest in the physiology of the human race. Many new and interesting details are communicated respecting commerce and maritime intercourse, and the abolition of the horrors of slavery.

CARL RITTER.

BERLIN, 1845.

AUTHOR'S PREFACE.

THE continent of Africa is daily exciting more and more interest in Europe, and increasing efforts are made to acquire a more perfect knowledge of this part of the world, which, since the earliest dawn of history, has attracted universal attention; yet this applies only to isolated portions of its immense extent. Tracts upon the Northern Coast have indeed been known to us for thousands of years; but, although Herodotus was tolerably well acquainted with Egypt, and gives some accounts of Central Africa, the latter are only fabulous; and, even to this day, almost with the exception of its most northern countries, the Cape Colonies, and a proportionably

very small tract of coast, the entire continent of Africa is a *terra incognita*.

The elements of an important crisis in the geographical knowledge of Africa seem indeed to be at work; but we cannot look for a happy result till the cessation of the wars which disturb its northern frontiers, till civilization shall have made some progress; and, above all, till the slave-trade shall be totally abolished. So long as that iniquitous traffic exists, the unhappy Africans, who groan under its yoke, and are constantly treated with cruelty and barbarity, will be impelled to the same line of conduct; they will be averse from all civilization, and inaccessible to the scientific inquirer.

England, of all European nations, has distinguished itself during the last fifty years, in acquiring a better knowledge of Africa; and, if the efforts of a diametrically opposite nature be a merit, the palm must be awarded to Portugal. Of all the European states, Portugal is the most powerful in Africa, as regards the position and extent of the countries which it has subjugated;

but, satisfied with the accidental honour of being the first discoverer of the whole Western coast, as well as of the Cape of Good Hope, and of the Eastern coast, as far as Melinda, it has been content, since the time of King Don Henriques, with retaining some of its possessions along the coast, for the purpose of subserving the basest self-interest, and of converting their richest plains into scenes of plunder and the most savage devastation.

Every step taken by the unprincipled Portuguese settlers in that unhappy colony, can strike the African in no other light than the proceedings of the barbarous States of Northern Africa appear in the eyes of the European powers, and fearfully evidences what misery, nay, what a curse oppresses the land which has groaned for centuries under the Portuguese sway. But the time is not far distant, when this injured race will avenge their own disgrace, and the crime of their oppressors will shake off the European yoke; and woe, then, to the Portuguese! if they have to atone with only one

drop of blood for every life which they have wantonly and disgracefully sacrificed; the entire population of Portugal would not suffice for this atonement!

THE EXPEDITION OF MR. DOS SANTOS TO ANGOLA.

SENHOR Ribeira dos Santos, the Portuguese Consul-General in Altona, fitted out, in the Spring of 1841, a commercial expedition, consisting of six ships laden with European goods of all kinds, which was conducted by himself to the coast of Angola, where he proposed to visit every European station, for the purpose of carrying on a trade by barter. The interesting nature of this enterprise presented so many attractions, that I unhesitatingly accepted the proffered appointment of physician, notwithstanding the dangerous climate of that ill-famed coast, and the unfavourable circumstance, that

our arrival in Africa would take place shortly before the commencement of the great rains, which is the most unhealthy season of the year.

Two young naturalists, Mr. Wrede, of Hanover, and Mr. Grosbendner, of Hamburgh, were indebted to the kindness of Mr. dos Santos for a passage on board the Camoës, in which I also performed the voyage. Mr. Wrede devoted himself to botany, and Mr. Grosbendner to etymology, and both proved very agreeable and interesting companions. But short as our residence on the coast was, it, alas, proved fatal to both these young men! thus cutting short their own fond hopes, and the expectations which so many others had formed of the successful results of their discoveries.

Three of our vessels, the bark Vasco da Gama, the brig Camoës, and the schooner Sultana, started simultaneously from the harbour of Altona, with the intention of joining the Georgiana, the Maria Hedewiges, and the Esperanza, on the African coast. The Georgiana put to

sea a few weeks before us, as she was to touch at Lisbon for the purpose of conveying to the Queen a present from Mr. dos Santos, as a proof of his acknowledgments of the numerous favours which her majesty had bestowed upon him. The present was a most unique one; it was a colossal cake, representing the siege of Oporto. The whole ground plan was copied with inimitable art, and the greatest fidelity, from the drawings of first-rate artists. The ships of war lying at anchor, actually fired their little guns, which were furnished with a tin tube inside, and corresponded with similar guns on the batteries on shore. The Queen of Portugal was surprised, and highly delighted with this present, which she expressed in an autograph letter to Mr. dos Santos, which he received when at Funchal.

All that could conduce to comfort and pleasure on so long a voyage, was liberally provided on board all the vessels; and the Vasco da Gama, especially, in which Mr. dos Santos sailed, was fitted up with extraordinary splendour. Our

provisions were of the choicest kind, and consisted of a large supply of vegetables, poultry, fish, even oysters, &c.,—partly in hermetically sealed vessels,—hogs, goats, a cow, and an immense number of fowls, pigeons, &c.; indeed, so ample was our stock, that none of the ships was ever without those fresh provisions, and our dinner was daily prepared by an Italian cook throughout the voyage.

A small band, consisting of six musicians, was in immediate attendance upon Mr. dos Santos, as well as a young Italian, who played on a glass harmonica with wonderful skill. We had the advantage of a small well-chosen library, and also a variety of resources to enable us to pass the time agreeably, even during the total calm which we frequently met with in the tropics. I remember with delight many unruffled days and evenings, when the tones of some national melody slowly died away over the placid surface of the boundless ocean.

Mr. dos Santos had likewise engaged the services of a young Portuguese linguist, who

was to act as secretary, and assist him in his mercantile transactions. On our homeward voyage, he also unhappily died of the coast-fever, and in the waves of the bay of Guinea found his early grave.

For his own amusement, Mr. dos Santos had furnished all the ships with new books of signals, by means of which the necessary communications could be made with tolerable facility. For this purpose, every vessel was supplied with a certain number of flags, and ballons for the day signals, and with lanterns for the night; with which ninety-six signs could be made in the day-time, and eleven at night. In this manner, the result of their calculations was made daily, at noon, by all the ships.

Scarcely a week passed without some changes being made by Mr. dos Santos, in this mode of communication, by the introduction of new signs or new signals. He insisted so strongly on the accurate observance of these regulations, that the slightest inattention on the part of a captain, or steersman, was threatened with a propor-

tional fine, which was to be appropriated to the benefit of the poor of Altona; but, as far as I am aware, no such penalty was ever incurred.

It would be difficult, nay, impossible, to enumerate the various articles of trade which composed the cargoes of our ships; we had so great a variety, that it would be scarcely difficult to find anything at the great German fairs, which was not on board our vessels: not only such as were adapted to the wants of the various negro-tribes, but likewise, such as were calculated to meet the wishes of the European residents. The principal articles were gunpowder, lead, and weapons of every description, consisting chiefly of muskets with fixed bayonets, sabres, and daggers; knives, scissors, needles, pins, and almost every kind of tools for mechanics. An equally important article was cottons; such as light stuffs, calicoes of all colours and patterns; but, we had too small a proportion of blue, which is the favourite colour among the negroes. We had likewise ready made shirts and petticoats, thick woollen blankets and coverlets,

shawls and handkerchiefs from the coarsest to the finest quality; cotton and silk-stockings and gloves, stuff and leather-shoes, felt-hats, &c., &c.

The Esparanza which came from Oporto, was laden exclusively with Portuguese wines, while our other vessels carried only a small quantity of French wines and spirits. We had unfortunately too small a quantity of cigars and tobacco, for which there was a great demand; indeed, they seemed to have been entirely forgotten. Ornaments of every kind, both real and false, beads,* domestic and kitchen utensils † were carefully selected; of the latter there was everything requisite for housekeeping, and many articles of

* The favourite beads among the negroes, were the small white or sky-blue beads, made of solid china. These were preferred to most of our stock, although some of them were of the most beautiful colours.

† There was little or no demand for lamps; because, it was usual to burn wax-lights in candlesticks, furnished with a glass cylinder, to protect the flame against currents of air and to keep off the flies and gnats.

white china were highly esteemed and prized by the negroes at Ambriz, as well as of the far interior, although they were put to a use very different from their original destination. We had scarcely a sufficient supply of harmonicans and jews-harps; which were in such request, that in some places where we had been only a few days, this music resounded through hill and dale.

Some years before our departure from Europe, Mr. dos Santos had sent a clever young merchant of the name of Lima, with some goods to Angola, and the successful result of his exertions had led to the plan of a far greater speculation: for the better execution of which, Mr. dos Santos had resolved to direct the enterprize himself. He had thus acquired the best information relative to the commercial articles adapted to Africa, and had therefore well founded hopes for the success of his bold undertaking, to which he applied all his energy and means, without the risk of exposing himself to the appearance of imprudence or rashness.

On our arrival at Loanda, we received the melancholy intelligence of the death of Mr. Lima. Mr. dos Santos was thus not only deprived of the assistance of his most able adviser for the conduct of his business, but had also to lament the partial though very considerable loss of the property, which he had committed to the charge of Mr. Lima, and which had been stolen. By the prompt and energetic assistance of the Governor-general a small portion of the money which had been embezzled was recovered.

A commercial expedition of such extraordinary extent, undertaken at the expense of a private individual, and the magnitude of the necessary equipments, naturally attracted the attention of a great part of Europe, and afforded the ignorant and the envious occasion for the most odious conjectures. They could not conceive that the immense outlay could be covered by any commercial speculation, except that of the slave trade: and some English journals were bold enough to assert that this was the sole object in contemplation, and to hold up Mr. dos Santos

to the eyes of the world, as an enterprising 'slave-dealer.' These news-papers reached us while we were in Loanda, and Mr. dos Santos unreservedly communicated these mendacious relations, which entered into the minutest details, to the Portuguese residents, whose offers of dealing in slaves he had frequently rejected with the most profound contempt.

If we consider the greatness of the danger incurred by the traffic in slaves from the vigilance of the British cruisers, it is very evident that calumnies of such a spiteful nature must have injured the credit of the house in Europe: and that even with the most honourable intentions, it was unable to satisfy the demands made for goods from numerous quarters.

The expedition of Mr. dos Santos, which encouraged and realized all the hopes that had been founded on it, even to the last moment of the enterprising and honourable leader of the expedition, was unhappily not permitted to prosper. The death of Mr. dos Santos was deeply regretted by all who accompanied him, and suddenly

terminated the commercial speculations, occasioned very heavy losses, favoured numerous impositions, and destroyed all hopes of a favourable pecuniary result. The deceased left a document, addressed to all who had shared his expedition, entreating them on no account to enter on the slave trade, or to favour it in any way whatever. Mr. dos Santos had defied the scorn and the hatred of the slave-dealers of the country, whom he boldly reproached with the infamy of their trade, and, on one occasion, was even carried so far by his noble zeal and holy indignation, as to declare to the principal inhabitants of Loanda, that every one of them deserved the gallows: and if he had the power, they would unquestionably not escape it. The cruel treatment inflicted upon the unhappy slaves, always deeply affected him, and he often sought opportunity to protect them from ill-usage; nay, he even promised liberty to some of the slaves of his agent, Mr. Fonseca, for their fidelity and good conduct.

During his last hours, Mr. dos Santos spoke

with deep affliction of the inevitably unhappy issue of his expedition, and of the grief which his death would occasion to his family, for whom, indeed, he had felt such an earnest yearning throughout the whole voyage, that he often expressed an inclination to return home at once. But, alas, he returned no more to the fond embraces of those whom he left to mourn his loss; according to his directions, his heart was taken out by me, and delivered to his children as a last memento: and, it is now deposited in the Roman Catholic Church at Altona. His memory is cherished by all who knew him, and the consciousness of upright intentions accompanied him to the grave.

I could not refrain from prefixing to the following account of my voyage these few words, in memory of the deceased, whose character was often not appreciated, but for whom I justly entertained the greatest regard and esteem.

THE AUTHOR.

Altona, 1845.

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CHAPTER I.

Departure from Europe—The British Channel—he Portuguese Monsoon off the Coast of Spain—Arrival at the Island of Porto Santo—The Cape de Verdes—The Island of Ferro—Arrival at the Island of San Antonio.

THE 28th of JUNE, 1841, was fixed for our departure from Altona; and, although the wind was by no means propitious, the little flotilla weighed anchor at the time appointed, for the tide was in our favour, and we were anxious to commence our voyage. The west wind was, however, so high, that we were thrice obliged to cast anchor in the Elbe, and did not

reach Cuxhaven till the 30th of June. At the very outset of our expedition, a melancholy circumstance occurred, which many regarded as an ominous portent of the issue of the voyage. Mr. Albers, of Altona, a friend of Mr. dos Santos, who had accompanied us to Gluckstadt, was unhappily drowned by the upsetting of the boat which was conveying him to a passing steamer. The deep and continued gloom which this sad event cast over our whole party, and especially Mr. dos Santos, evidenced how highly this gentleman had been esteemed by all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance.

We bade adieu to our native land, early on the morning of the 3rd of July, when we sailed from Cuxhaven amid repeated salutes of artillery, and were soon tossed on the rough billows of the unruly Northren Ocean. Notwithstanding an adverse wind, we made good progress; in three

days we reached the entrance of the British Channel, and came in sight of the south-east coast of England. The whole line of country was shrouded by a thick mist; and a heavy head wind sprang up, and obliged us to take shelter under the steep, chalky cliffs of Deal. During the two days that we lay at anchor here, our vessels were surrounded by innumerable beggars, who, with the greatest effrontery imaginable, demanded gin or tobacco, and even offered to purchase these articles from the sailors. Strange to say, every one of our captains tamely submitted to the pertinacious impudence of these men; and seemed to think, that, because they were Englishmen, all must respect in each of them the power of the nation, and recognise its maritime supremacy.

We had two days continued fine weather, which afforded us a clear prospect of the English coast, with its noble forts and

fortifications, its neat towns, and elegant country-houses; and, above all, the wide spread channel, animated by innumerable vessels from all quarters of the world, under the colours of their respective nations. A voyage through the channel, at this season, is peculiarly interesting and enlivening; but the contrast with the dull uniformity of the vast Atlantic Ocean, is the more sensibly felt.

On the 10th of July the wind veered in our favour, and we soon lost sight of the land's end; here the colour of the water suddenly changed. To the point where the plumb-line reaches the bottom, it is of a bright green; but, at the commencement of the ocean, it assumes a dark green hue. The sea-fowl gradually diminished in numbers, and soon entirely disappeared, with the exception of the little sea-swallows, which accompanied us, more or less, during our whole voyage, and daily fluttered about

our vessels, in fine as well as in stormy weather.

We lost sight of our smallest ship, the Sultana, for the space of two days, but, to our great delight, it here rejoined us; and it was a remarkable fact, that during the whole of our voyage, no such separation again occurred; indeed, I often marvelled that we kept so constantly together, notwithstanding the darkness of the nights, and the frequent storms which we encountered. Nay, I was not even once hindered from making a professional, or other visit, to any of our vessels, though I was obliged to do this between twenty and thirty times during the voyage.

The first object of interest which we encountered, was an immense shoal of porpoises *(Delphinus Delphis)*, which came up, full speed, from the north-west; they followed the course of the wind and waves, and rose in couples to a great height above

the surface of the water. They covered the ocean as far as the eye could reach, and diverted us excessively with their lively antics, apparently endeavouring to spring from the ridge of one wave to another, as if they were in a great hurry to get to the end of their voyage. The next day a Portuguese ship that was sailing close by us, harpooned an immense moon-fish *(orthagarsicus mola)*, which, to judge by its size, might weigh about 400 lbs. In calm weather, innumerable medusæ and clio afforded us much interesting sport, so that we were never dull; whereas, persons who take no pleasure in amusements of this kind, find a long voyage very tedious and monotonous, especially at the commencement.

We had scarcely gained the most northern point of Spain, when we happily fell in with the north-east Portuguese Monsoon, which generally rises at the southern

extremity of Portugal or Spain; thus favoured, we reached the island of Porto Santo, one of the Madeiras, on the 28th of July. This small, but lofty, rocky island, was visible at the distance of six or eight geographical miles, (fifteen to a degree,) but we were not able to discern any human habitations, or trace of cultivation on the scorched lava soil of the northern and eastern coast; nor could we even descry the only town in Porto Santo, which is situated in a creek on the south-western coast.

Mr. dos Santos resolved to stop some days at Funchal, the capital of Madeira, and we accordingly lay to, about a mile off Porto Santo, in order that I might visit the Vasco da Gama, and the Sultana, which were to go to Madeira. Here we parted, and steered direct for the Cape de Verd islands; where, after touching at the island of San Antonio, we were

all to join company in the excellent harbour of San Vincente. As the wind was very faint, the evening twilight came on, ere we passed the beautiful island of Madeira, with the two proxime islets, the northern and southern Desertas.

The Monsoon prevailed from this point to Cape Verd islands,* which enabled us to calculate the time of our arrival with tolerable accuracy. Towards evening, on the 30th of July, we came in sight of the island of Palmas, which is the most north-westerly of the Canaries. Palmas, like its sister island, is of volcanic formation. The mountains, which are bleak and bare, and covered with grey lava and basalt,

* Dr. Smith, speaking of the geological features of the Cape Verd archipelago, says, "That like all the African Atlantic islands, they are of submarine, volcanic origin, and mostly of the basaltic formation. Few of them seem to have had submarine irruption; and perhaps, the Cone of Fogo, which rises above 7000 feet, and still smokes, is the only one. H.E.L.

presented a strange aspect. During the night, a number of bright fires blazed on the summits, and here many of the peaceable villagers were probably assembled. In the morning the outlines of Palmas were still visible in the horizon; and on our left hand, a few miles off, rose the island of Ferro. I endeavoured to discover the more remote peak of Teneriffe, which towers 11,394 feet above the ocean, and is often seen at a distance of twenty-five geographical miles; but unhappily, the sky was covered with dense clouds, which completely shrouded this interesting, half-extinct volcano from my sight.

The island of Ferro, when viewed some way out at sea, greatly resembles Palmas and Madeira; it is a very high mountain-ridge, composed of dark grey lava, covered here and there, with sombre low bushes, and traversed, in some places, by white stripes, which have the appearance of chalk.

We first saw the flying-fish *(exocœtus volitans)*, a few miles to the south of Ferro, and their numbers increased so rapidly, that even on the following day, thousands fluttered around us, or skimmed the buoyant wave. Many of them, in their flight to escape the rapacity of their insatiable pursuers—the shark and the bonita,—alighted on our deck, where they fell a prey to the cruel hand of man; for we considered them a delicacy, and often feasted upon them at breakfast.

We crossed the tropic of Cancer during the night of the 1st of August, and passed from the temperate, into the torrid zone. Had not the calculations of the captain made us acquainted with this fact, we should never have inferred it from the state of the temperature; for at noon-day on the 2nd, the thermometer was only 78 Farh., and even this was higher than it stood during several succeeding days.

In this latitude we encountered a shark, which swam close to our vessel; but we soon lost sight of it, because we were proceeding at the rate of seven or eight knots an hour; and this slothful monster never takes the trouble of following a ship which makes above two knots. A few hours later, a large tortoise *(testudo midas)* came alongside; it deliberately extended its neck from beneath its huge armour, surveyed our vessel, and then quietly drew in its head, without showing any symptoms of fear, or diving to the bottom. It had apparently been disturbed from its slumbers; and, as if conscious that the wind would not allow us to pursue it, immediately relapsed into its state of oblivion. The nearest point of land from which it could come, was the Canaries, which were now at least one hundred miles off, a voyage which, considering the extreme slowness of its movements, the tortoise

had probably spent some months in performing. The wind and waves were now carrying it in the direction of the Cape de Verdes, which were about eighty miles distant, and this tardy voyager would, doubtless, be some months in gaining its destination. In this case, it would be deprived of its main nourishment at least half a year; for the tortoise generally feeds on sea-weed growing at the bottom of the ocean near the coast.*

* Though the tortoise might require some months to traverse such a distance by land, the wind, waves, and current, might very naturally facilitate its progress by sea. H. E. L.

CHAPTER II.

San Antonio—The Negro-town—Porto do Sal—Difficult and dangerous approach to the Island—Friendly Reception in the house of Mr. Fonseca—Hospitality of the Portuguese—Mode of living—Delicious Fruits—Graves of three Shipwrecked Englishmen—Difficulty of penetrating into the Interior—Mr. Burnay—Visit to Grande Ribeira, the chief Town of the Island—Its picturesque situation—Medical advice to many of the Inhabitants—Entertainment given by a wealthy Native—Seclusion of the Females—Characteristic simplicity—Night in a Native Hut—National Dances—Departure from San Antonio, and arrival at San Vincente—Fine Harbour—Immense flocks of Sea Birds—Sterility of the Soil, and great Scarcity of Provisions—Want of Water—Oppressive Heat—Scanty collections in Natural History—The Island of Santa Luzia—Cross the Line, and pass to the south of St. Helena.

EARLY in the morning of the 5th of August, we descried the summits of the Island of San Antonio, the most northerly

of the Cape de Verd Isles, rising high above the clouds. These mountain heights are of grey lava, very similar to those of Madeira and the Canaries. In clear weather, this island may be distinctly seen at the distance of fifteen or sixteen geographical miles, but the hazy state of the atmosphere which is very prevalent here, concealed it from our view till we were within a very few miles of it. The broad waves gradually became smaller; the surface smooth as a mirror; and the cheerless mist was succeeded by a bright, cloudless sky. The island suddenly stood before us like an immense mass of piles of lava, here rising in sugar-loaf summits, there jagged and rent; in some places forming regular unbroken ridges, in others cleft into deep ravines and vallies, gently sloping down to the sea.

At first sight San Antonio presented the appearance of a bare and sterile rock, but on a nearer approach we beheld many

patches of brilliant verdure, and wherever we could obtain a glimpse into the interior, we discerned thick umbrageous forests. Myriads of sea-fowl fluttered about, scared by the breakers that dashed furiously against the precipitous coast, and over fragments of rock which had been rent away from the solid mass, and hurled into the sea, where they rose above the surface, in fantastic shapes.

We soon came in sight of the little negro-village of Ponto do Sal, where a Portuguese flag indicated the residence of Mr. Fonseca, the agent of Mr. dos Santos. The approach to the island is difficult, and often proves dangerous to those who are unacquainted with the anchorage, because the masses of huge stones and volcanic matter extend to a considerable distance into the sea, directly opposite the village. Our Captain, however, who had been there several times, knew how to take advantage of a

cleft in the rocks, off which we cast anchor at the distance of a musket shot to the north of Ponto do Sal. The anchorage is rendered very insecure by the perfectly open nature of the coast, which is exposed to the perpetual north-east monsoon, and a stay there is highly disagreeable in consequence of the incessant, violent rolling of the ship.

Mr. Fonseca immediately put off in a boat, rowed by four blacks, and came on board to bid us welcome. His light dress, and tanned complexion, at once made us sensible that the inhabitants of San Antonio dwelt in the torrid zone. We gazed with interest at his attendants, whose complexion and contour of countenance, which was by no means disagreeable, indicated a mixture of African and European blood; the greater part are of course descended from the Moors of Northern Africa.

I was very impatient to get ashore, and

made the four negroes row me thither, which they did with great good humour, very skilfully avoiding the breakers and masses of rock along the coast. We passed through a strait only a few feet in breadth, into a small basin, the volcanic enclosure of which was so low that, in several places, the breakers foamed over its margin, to the great amusement of some negro children, who were bathing in the fresh and buoyant waves. Many of them were only four or five years of age, and seemed to be quite at home in the watery element, in which young and old, spend a great part of the day, and are very expert in the art of swimming. The lava shore which resembles pumice stone, was covered with remains of numerous crustacæ, and the little clefts in the stone were full of sea hedgehogs, whose sharp spines are often dangerous to the naked feet of the bathers. There was not a trace of sand upon the beach.

The scanty population of the little Negro-town hastened to the beach uttering loud acclamations of welcome; with the most childish impetuosity they embraced the butcher who accompanied me, and who had resided for some months among these friendly Islanders about two years before. Men and women pressed round him with cries of *Viva Senhor Jacob!* Those who were bathing, jumped out of the water, and without stopping to put on their scanty clothing, followed the train quite naked; and, giving vent to their feelings in the most vociferous shouts of joy, brought us to their huts, which lay near the strand.

The house of Mr. Fonseca is one of the best in the town, though assuredly very far from being a desirable dwelling. We were conducted through an opening in a wall, carelessly built of stone, into a square court, which was crowded with asses, mules, goats, swine, monkeys, abundance of poultry,

Turkey ducks, and a solitary horse. This Augean stable is the only entrance to Mr. Fonseca's residence! We ascended a stone staircase, rather out of repair, which led us to the first story; this is, properly speaking, the dwelling house, for the ground floor serves as a warehouse, and is stored with goods, especially brandy and light stuffs. Mrs. Fonseca, who is an English lady, welcomed us in her native language, and was highly rejoiced again to hear the sound of her mother tongue, after an absence of eighteen months from the shores of Britain. She found the pronunciation of the Portuguese extremely difficult, and was obliged still to converse with her husband by the help of a dictionary. She was dressed completely in the European style, and wore a kind of semi-train, and, being a tall slender person, altogether formed a striking contrast with her scantily clothed negro attendants.

The interior of the dwelling resembled an old prison; the walls were made of rough, thick, unhewn blocks of lava, partially plastered on the inside, and had only one large window, which was closed at night with boards, but in the day time afforded a noble prospect over the boundless ocean. Though the house was about two hundred paces from the sea, the high north-westerly wind sometimes drove the spray of the breakers into the room, and thereby greatly impeded the enjoyment of the fine prospect. The apartment was rendered very uncomfortable by the want of a ceiling, being merely covered in by the roof, which was composed of bamboo, and separated from the bed chamber by a thin partition of reeds.

Our kind hostess shewed us all the hospitality for which the Portuguese are so celebrated, and cheerfully set before us every thing that her limited household

establishment could afford. To those who have passed four tedious weeks at sea, pent up within the narrow limits of a ship, the simplest fare on shore is welcome, even though they may have lived luxuriously; most thoroughly, therefore, did we relish the delicious fruits of a tropical clime, which we now tasted for the first time in our lives. Our breakfast was somewhat singular, inasmuch as it was composed of the productions of the four quarters of the globe. We had capital tea, American or Brazilian keaks (cakes), and Hambro' smoked beef, which was the pride of our hostess, though certainly not improved by the warm climate. To this were added eggs, and Portuguese sausages, and our repast was concluded by a rich variety of the fruits of the country. There was an abundance of home-made wine, which, however, did not suit the palate of any of our party, though we were assured it

had been several years in bottle; indeed, I greatly preferred a very indifferent Lisbon.

The custom of keeping wine in large gourds, and of drawing it into small calabashes, would injure the very best, because some of the pulp generally adheres to the inner rind, and imparts a peculiarly unpleasant taste. The rich flavour of the grapes, which are larger and more luscious than those of Spain, induces the reasonable conjecture, that if care were bestowed on their cultivation, they might yield excellent wine. All the natives understand something of the art of making it, and those who have land of their own, have generally very rich vineyards, and make what they require for their home consumption.

After breakfast, we started for a short botanizing excursion in the vicinity, and made some few interesting additions to our entomological collection. The natives,

whose curiosity led them to follow us about, were greatly amused at our pursuits, and laughed heartily to see us so intently engaged in gathering wild flowers, and catching insects.

Three small wooden crosses have been erected close to the town, to mark the graves of some Englishmen who were shipwrecked here. We were told, that about a twelvemonth ago, a British vessel, I believe a brig, on her way from India, was shattered on the rocks, immediately opposite Ponto do Sal, in calm, fine weather. Two sailors only were saved; and their report was, that the whole crew, together with the steersman, who had fallen down and gone to sleep at his post, were in a state of intoxication, in consequence of a carousal given on board. Indeed, the awful state of inebriety in which these two sailors were, was so great, that even the struggle with death, which they had sustained in the

breakers, could not arouse them from their lethargy and restore them to their sober senses. Of the entire crew and passengers, only the three dead bodies buried here, were washed ashore.

As we proceeded close along the beach, we encountered difficulties at every step, and our progress was consequently very slow. Sometimes blocks of lava, which had rolled down from the summit, obliged us to make dangerous leaps; at others, the coast rose to a great height with insurmountable steep declivities, and compelled us to clamber along perilous and circuitous ways to regain the shore; and very often, when we thought ourselves perfectly secure, we were obliged to scamper for our very lives, for the distant waves came hurrying on, and after dashing over the rocks, the whole volume overflowed the shore, and not unfrequently wetted us to the skin.

After toiling in this manner above an hour, without making much progress, we were most reluctantly constrained to desist from prosecuting our interesting scramble, in consequence of the increasing depth of the water, and the steepness of the cliffs. Regardless of the discomfort of our wet clothes, and well satisfied with our collection of crustacæ, we resolved to mount the crag's rude brow.

Our clothes were soon dried by the sun, and we exerted ourselves to get as near as possible to the highest summit of the rocks, in order to obtain a view of the interior from an elevated point. In this, however, we were disappointed; as the sides of the cliffs became more steep and difficult of ascent, and at last quite inaccessible. The cotton plant and other bushes which grow upon the boulders, had such a scanty depth of soil, that they afforded a very insecure assistance in

climbing, and we were at length compelled to return homeward, with our small booty, thoroughly tired out, and suffering greatly from thirst.

There was only a single European merchant, besides Mr. Fonseca, resident here; he was a young Portuguese, named Senhor Burnay, and was partner of a large house in Lisbon. He had been educated at Strasburg, and lived some years in Paris; but preferred San Antonio to a residence in the chief capitals of Europe. He came to meet us as we were returning home, and courteously invited us to dinner, which was quite ready on our arrival at his house. Though he was now almost unused to converse in German, he spoke it with tolerable fluency, and I frequently availed myself of his services as an interpreter. His table was furnished with the best supplies of the island; very good poultry, (which is so abundant that

it constitutes the daily food of the poor,) and the finest fish. The beautiful pale blue pilot fish *(centronotus ductor)*, with perpendicular stripes of a darker shade, still retained a fine tinge of azure; and the magnificent *Rei do mar* was glowing in the most brilliant red, even after being dressed. Both these fish have an agreeable flavour, and appear to be frequently caught on the coast of San Antonio.

A great variety of native fruits formed our desert; and, on this occasion, we first became acquainted with those delicious products of the Flora of the torrid zone, bananas, pine-apples, guavas, papaws, and mammaws. The grapes were just ripe, and the walls of the house and court-yard were covered with vines, producing the richest clusters, as Senhor Burnay wished to try the experiment of making them into raisins; luscious oranges and a small

kind of citron were also served in perfection.

The news of our arrival quickly spread over the island, and many of the inhabitants of Grande Ribeira, which was about six miles distant, came to Ponto do Sal: some attracted by curiosity, others by the desire of obtaining medical advice. Numbers of them made me promise to visit the capital the following day, in order to prescribe for several sick persons. No physician had ever yet resided among these peaceful and good-natured islanders; and indeed, their very salubrious climate renders medical aid almost superfluous; but they were resolved to make the best of this rare opportunity, and almost every body found out some disorder, real or imaginary, from which he confidently expected to be relieved by my professional skill.

Towards evening, when the great heat

of the day had subsided to an agreeable coolness, Senhor Burnay invited us to enjoy the luxury of a bath on the shore. Nature seems to have formed the coast of this island for the especial accommodation of bathers; every thing tending to promote their pleasure and convenience, which elsewhere is attained by art, is here combined in the natural formation of the volcanic cliffs. There are many hollows or caves in the steep declivities, some of which resemble niches hewn out by the hand of man, and afford a shady covert to those who are preparing for a dip in the sea. There are also numerous cavities, resembling artificial basins, filled with the clearest salt water, which covers the level shore to a considerable distance, though not to any great depth; and hence the bather is not exposed to danger from the attacks of sharks, or other marine animals. It is much to be regretted, that these

admirable baths are too far distant to be sought by Europeans. Indeed, although San Antonio is one of the most salubrious of the group, it is rarely frequented by patients or visitors, even from the proxime islands, which are annually subject to malignant fevers, and are abandoned during the unhealthy season by the opulent inhabitants, who then take refuge in Brava and Fuego; yet it would be neither expensive nor difficult to persons requiring sea-bathing, to make a temporary residence here both convenient and agreeable.

We parted from our friendly host late in the evening, and passed an uncomfortable night on board the ship, which was tossed to and fro by the violence of the waves. At day-break, we again went ashore, prepared to encounter the fatigue of the inconvenient journey to Grande Ribeira, well provided with the necessary

apparatus for collecting objects of natural history; and, although we had the offer of a sufficient number of asses and mules, resolved to be perfectly unshackled, and accordingly set out on foot, attended only by a black guide.

A narrow foot path winds its way round the whole island, and almost every where runs so close to the edge of the cliffs, that it is almost impossible to glance down from the dizzy height without an apprehension of falling into the raging breakers; while, on the other hand, access into the interior appears to be rendered wholly impracticable, by the steep precipitous rocks, which, with one exception, shut out every entrance. Here and there we saw the wild goats skipping from crag to crag, and numerous wild asses roaming about in all the unconstraint of nature; and which, when tamed by the inhabitants, carry them in safety along these dangerous

ways. Clear streamlets fell rapidly from the mountain heights into the foaming sea, and solitary huts lay along the smiling verdant banks amid plantations of coffee, sugar, and maize, which the negroes cultivate for their own consumption.

Fine indigo plants grew spontaneously in the greatest luxuriance, but they are not appreciated by the negroes, and very few employ themselves in preparing that valuable dye. During my stay, it was frequently offered to me for sale in lumps as big as my fist; but I saw at a glance, that no pains had been taken in its manufacture, for it was mixed with a quantity of sand and leaves. Hence the specimens sent to Europe were not approved in the market, though it was evident to accurate observers, that the indigo grown here is by no means inferior to the best sorts. From a report made by the governor, Gaetano Procopio de Vasconcellos, in the year

1819, it appears that the cultivation of indigo in the Cape de Verd islands, was first undertaken in the 17th century; but the industry of the natives is stifled by the slave-trade; and wherever that traffic prevails, every other employment is abandoned.

From this report, we learn, that Don Antonio Salgado, a former governor, on his return to Lisbon, took charge of the first specimens of indigo; but on account of the impurity of these samples, two royal ordinances were issued on the 24th June, and the 7th December, 1703, which directed that the ripe plants only should be gathered, and that the indigo should be prepared from them, in tanks filled with water. Traces of these reservoirs may yet be seen in San Antonio. The Government even established an indigo manufactory in San Jago and San Antonio;

but in consequence of bad management,* both of them were subsequently relinquished.

The last attempt to revive the manufacture of indigo, was made by Luiz Marim, from Turin, who settled in San Antonio in 1825, furnished with special privileges. Dazzled by the greater advantages of commerce on the coast of the Continent itself, he, however, soon quitted San Antonio for Senegambia, where, as I was told in Grande Ribeira, he derived unquestionably greater profit from the slave-trade than he could have drawn from the culture of this valuable plant.† Since

* Memoria de Joao da Silva Feijo, 1797. In this memoir, the history of the cultiation of indigo in the Cape Verd islands is given in detail; the differant species of the parent plant, are, however, not even named.

† Here we have another proof, if proof were wanting, of the fearful results of that inordinate desire of hastening to be rich, which leads the few

that time, the manufacture of indigo has fallen entirely into disuse; it is rudely prepared by only a few negroes, and being of very inferior quality, is of no value as an article of commerce.

On our road we often encountered negroes and negresses carrying large quantities of fruit and vegetables on their

European settlers to abandon every other pursuit for the slave-trade; by which, indeed, some individuals rapidly acquire wealth, but which is evidently far less productive of advantage to Portugal itself, than the culture of the indigenous plants, such as indigo, sugar-cane, coffee, cotton, and palm-oil, which Africa produces in far greater abundance and perfection than most other countries. The Goverment might unquestionably derive a considerable revenue from indigo alone, which grows so spontaneously in Africa, that in some localities it is difficult to eradicate the plant. Truly Sir Fowell Buxton was right when he said, "Africa has within herself resources, which, duly developed, would compensate for the gains of the slave-trade, if these were twenty times as great as they are."

H. E. L.

heads. They looked very picturesque, and were on their way to Ponto do Sal, where they would find a ready market for their goods. In passing, they each greeted us with the Portuguese salutation,—"*Lourado seja nosso Senhor Jesu Cristo,*" which was responded to by the usual reply, "*Para sempre.*"

After a fatiguing scramble of a couple of hours, we suddenly found ourselves on a lofty table-land. Here we had a fine view of the whole island, and the little town that lay snugly ensconced at our feet. Our eyes were refreshed by the sight of a romantic mountain-valley, bounded by steep declivities, richly covered with vineyards; every cottage lay embosomed in a lovely garden; where beauteous flowers exhaled their soft odours to the fragrant gale, the lofty palm reared its graceful form, and the broad-leaved plantain threw its luxury of

shade over the bright and exuberant underwood:

> "A world of wonders, where creation seems
> No more the works of nature, but her dreams."

This unexpected sight filled us with wonder and delight, and we cheerfully trod the rough path that descended to the town.

An aged beggar woman gave us some information respecting our road, and derived no little profit from our agreeable surprise. Our arrival was evidently an extraordinary event; a great multitude of people quickly assembled, and accompanied us with much familiarity and superabundant civility, through a sandy and stoney plain to the interior of the town.

Here we were disappointed in our expectations; the streets, without exception, were only a few feet in breadth; indeed, so narrow, that it was difficult for two persons to walk abreast. They had a melancholy and desolate appearance, be-

cause every house lay at the extremity of a garden, and was concealed from view by a lofty stone wall; only here and there the dull monotony was relieved by some fine large trees which overtopped the dead wall.

We were quite overcome by the heat, and very desirous of procuring some refreshing beverage; and were very agreeably surprised when a good-tempered looking negro led us into a small, humble inn. If we had been the first Europeans who had trod these shores, we could scarcely have excited more general astonishment than that which was manifested at our appearance; yet the governor of the island is a Portuguese officer, and even resides in Grande-Ribeira. The little tavern was slovenly and dirty, both within and without, and had not the least pretension to first-rate accommodation; but our host was proportionably moderate in

his charges, and when we came to pay our reckoning, demanded only six vintems (about eight-pence) for two bottles of home-made wine, and attendance; and this, indeed, was not nominal, for we had given him a good deal of trouble, by repeatedly calling for water, which he brought to us in calabashes.

We scarcely had time to allay our thirst, when a well-drest, corpulent negro bustled into the hut, and demanded, "which of us was the doctor to whom he had yesterday sent an invitation?" On the intimation that I was the person, he cordially grasped my hand, and led me in haste through the crowd. By the obsequious manner in which all made way for him, and the aristocratic air with which he returned their salutations, I soon perceived that he was one of the chief people of the place. On reaching the high thick wall which surrounded his house and

garden, the gate was opened by a negro servant, one of the few slaves that are to be met with in San Antonio. The garden was planted chiefly with capava, oranges, and guavas; all the trees were laden with fruit, but only the cocoa-nuts and a few bananas were ripe. We proceeded to the house, which, like all the rest, lay at the further end of the garden, through a fine avenue of ancient dates—palms, plantains, and coca-nut trees. The beautiful order, both of the house and the garden, indicated the wealth and taste of the proprietor. On entering, he immediately conducted me, with an air of conscious pride, to a large, old-fashioned Nuremburg clock, which sounded "Cuckoo" every hour, and which he positively assured me was the only one in the island. According to the custom of the country, he then paid me the compliment of placing every thing at my disposal, and concluded

by saying, "While you continue under this roof, I shall have the honour to be your guest, and you will be my host." The great man then ordered breakfast to be prepared, and a large table was immediately covered with refreshments. A messenger was dispatched for Mr. Wrede and Mr. Grossbendner, our two naturalists, who were still at the inn; a crowd of people followed them uninvited, and, utterly regardless whether or not the company was agreeable to the master of the house, were resolved to have their share in the ample collation which he had provided.

Every luxury which the island afforded was displayed in great profusion; and our host not only set us a good example himself, but was unwearied in inviting us to partake of the good things which were spread out before us. Our repast would have been nowise inferior to an excellent European breakfast, if good potatoes had

been substituted for the roasted bananas, and foreign wines for the execrable beverage of the country. We had no bread, but small Brazilian biscuits were handed round, with very fair European butter; and a great variety of preserved tropical fruits, especially oranges, were also passed round with every dish.

Our jovial friend successively drank the health of his guests with extraordinary rapidity; according to etiquette, we were obliged to empty our glasses, and, in proof that we had duly performed our part, we had to sound them upon the table. I must confess, that I was greatly surprised at the decorous behaviour of every person present; and although a great deal of wine was drank, no one appeared to be in the least affected by it.

When our host rose from table, most of the company retired, but he invited me to follow him to that part of the house where

his wife and daughters lived in complete seclusion. The separation of the two sexes, and the consequent timidity of the females in the presence of a man, naturally excited my astonishment, because this practice seems wholly at variance with the manners of an insular people, whose chief attraction is a childlike simplicity, and innocent freedom from conventional restraint. This Mahometan institution was introduced into the Cape Verd islands by their intercourse with the countries along the Northern Coast of Africa, which was formerly much more frequent than at present. Polygamy has not, however, followed as a consequence; at all events is not tolerated here. The custom of separation seems to be confined to a few of the principal houses in Grande Ribeira, for among the poor I invariably found the men and women together, excepting at meals, when they are strictly separated: the men first

taking their repast and afterwards the women.

My entrance caused some consternation among the ladies, and I had much difficulty in carrying on my medical examination; especially as I had but a scanty knowledge of the Portuguese language, and was not provided with an interpreter. Without appearing to observe the embarrassment, I put a few general questions, and even took their hand in an easy unconstrained manner, and thus succeeded in gaining their confidence in my skill, and trust in the efficacy of the medicines which I promised to send.

My professional aid was in great requisition. Invitations poured in from all parts of the town, and unfortunately so completely occupied me the whole day, that I was prevented rambling through the delightful environs. While I, attended by a crowd of negroes, was obliged to

prescribe till I was heartily tired, my companions made an interesting excursion, and enjoyed the beauties of the surrounding country.

Towards evening, I gladly yielded to the solicitations of Joaquim, my mulatto guide, who had scarcely stirred from my side, to retire to his dwelling and take some rest. On our way thither, we were joined by Mr. Wrede and Mr. Grossbendner, who were returning from their peregrinations, and who readily accepted Joaquim's request to accompany us. I was, however, disappointed in my hope of getting rest, for our party nearly filled the hut, and the small fore-court was constantly crowded with curious intruders. Joaquim at once introduced his wife, a very charming young mulatto, who did the honours with as much propriety and grace as if she had received her education at a French boarding-school.

Notwithstanding manifest indications of poverty, the interior of the cottage was very well arranged, and the ready attentions of our cheerful host and hostess made us overlook many slight inconveniences, occasioned chiefly by the total want of chairs, and the substitution of a bench, which was too short to accommodate us all. At my especial request, the good housewife sat down at table, and partook with us of a capital supper, consisting of poultry, many kinds of fruit, and a variety of home-made wines.

Darkness suddenly set in, and as the road to Ponto do Sal was very dangerous, we resolved to defer our return till the rising of the moon. The natives proposed to pass the intermediate time in dancing, for which all were at once prepared. Music was also put into requisition, and a dark-looking mulatto instantly contrived to obtain a violin, from which he ex-

tracted the most grating and lamentable strains. The delight of the dancers soon manifested itself in shouts and songs, and the neighbours came flocking together in such numbers, that the confined limits of hut would not admit half of them. The inconvenience thus occasioned was, however, temporary, and was very easily remedied; for, upon Joaquim's proposition, the whole party immediately resolved to adjourn to the spacious house of one of the neighbours. Though the owner of the house was not present, it was deemed unnecessary to give him any previous notice, and the move was effected in a few moments. Joaquim, the leader of the party, gave a few vigorous blows at the house-door, and soon roused the inmates, who were all fast asleep.

I fully expected that the people, thus unceremoniously called up, would receive us very uncourteously; or, at all events,

not in a very cheerful mood; but, no sooner did the man, who was still half asleep, put his head out at the partially-opened door, and see the large merry party, whose musician saluted him with a few notes of the violin, than he instantly opened the door, invited all to enter, roused his wife, his son, and his four grown-up daughters, lighted several lamps, and in a few minutes, he and all his family were dancing merrily with the rest. They commenced with performing the two national dances which were wholly unknown to us; after which, two of the natives who could dance waltzes and gallopades, which they had learnt from some English sailors in Boa Vista, challenged us to join them, to the general exultation of the good people, several of whom made unsuccessful attempts, and were heartily laughed at for their pains.

One of their national dances bore much

resemblance to the fandango; it was executed by two persons, who, constantly clapping their hands, advanced and retreated several times, and then danced round each other with graceful movements, without once touching. The only accompaniment in this instance, was the violin; and both spectators and dancers refrained from singing or shouting.

The second national dance was not unlike a Scotch reel, and was performed by several persons standing in two rows opposite each other: here, on the contrary, the accompaniment was not instrumental, but vocal music, and an uninterrupted singing and snapping the fingers accelerated the animation of the dance. The song consisted of only two strophes of text, divided by the dancers at their pleasure: one strophe appeared to contain an answer to a question proposed in the other, and was commenced before the latter was

ended. The whole party mingled in this dance, which consisted of irregular movements, and lasted nearly an hour.

This merry-hearted party, whose cheerfulness was encreased by the wine which was freely circulated, spent so great a part of the night in this national festivity, that we had no inclination to set out before day-break on our toilsome and difficult journey, especially as Joaquim warmly urged us to return to his cottage, an offer which, as we were much fatigued we gratefully accepted. It is scarcely possible to form an idea of the hospitality of these good people, and the alacrity with which they exerted themselves to prepare our night's quarters, for in truth, it was no easy matter to accommodate an extra party of four individuals in their confined dwelling. The guide, who escorted my companions, was obliged to remain in the open air, which he did with great cheerfulness, and slept in

the little courtyard in front of the hut. It was fruitless to attempt persuading Joaquim and his wife not to deprive themselves of all the mats and cushions, which constituted a bed for themselves and for their children, in order to make a comfortable shake-down for us. The whole family lay upon the hard floor and the boards of the stripped bed, where they passed the night. As for myself, I had not slept so soundly on board our unsteady ship, for many a long night, as I did on this rather inconvenient couch. I rose much refreshed, at five o'clock in the morning, having been wrapped in sweet oblivion till I was aroused from my slumbers by my kind hostess, who had already prepared coffee for our breakfast.

The only acknowledgment I could offer for the hospitality which I had enjoyed, was some trifling presents of beads and rings for the children, a red silk kerchief, as a head-gear for our hostess, and a small

pecuniary compensation for Joaquim. The place and the people had quite won upon my affections, and I could not help cherishing the hope, that, I [illegible] visit this pleasant little town [illegible] inhabitants ere I finally q[illegible]. Shortly before we found our [illegible] wards, an earnest [illegible] was sent to me by two old dames, to pay them a [illegible] visit.

Joaquim, and [illegible] of [illegible] friends, insisted upon accompanying us to Ponto do Sol [illegible] ing pieces, and [illegible] be [illegible] specimens. During the preceding night, masses of lava had been precipitated from the beetling rocks upon the narrow path leading to the town, and had rendered it almost impassable. The passage was now so very dangerous for horses and mules, that the governor ordered his negro soldiers to remove the obstruction, and clear the track the same day.

On reaching Porto do Sal, the Captain informed me that our departure was fixed for the next day, which obliged me to relinquish my intention of paying a second visit to Grande Ribeira; I accordingly sent a kind message to that effect, with the sketches which I had prepared for my excellent [illegible] interesting little town.

In the evening, I accompanied Mr. Bunbury to the sea-side, for the purpose of enjoying a bath; but I had the misfortune to tread upon the *Sepula lumbricalis*, which almost every where completely covers the rocks: some of the sharp spines entered the ball of my foot, and as I could not extract them, the inflammation and swelling which ensued rendered it almost impossible for me to walk for several days. Accidents of this nature are common here, and the negroes employ the very simple remedy of applying a warm bandage of

baked bananas, which they continue to renew for several days. I unhesitatingly submitted to their medical experience, and was shortly relieved from the violent pain, occasioned by the wound.

Our naturalists met with an equally disagreeable accident a few hours earlier the same day. After bathing, and while still dripping with sea-water, they very imprudently walked along the beach before they were dressed, collecting shells and molluscæ. They thus exposed their uncovered backs for a considerable time to the beams of the sun, in consequence of which, they were immediately seized with a violent fever, and their backs were for several days as raw and tender as if an immense blicter had been applied. These consequences, annoying in themselves, were, nevertheless, a very useful warning for the future.

Mr. Fonseca, who was about to remove

to Benguela or Loanda, for the advantage of the house, was very desirous of sailing with us; and had, therefore, got nearly all his effects on board in the course of a few days. His wife, who greatly enjoyed the quiet seclusion of San Antonio, and had become so attached to it during a residence of nearly two years, that she did not even wish to exchange it for her native home, was deeply affected, and wept much at leaving this salubrious and beautiful country. She was, besides, very apprehensive of the effects of the unhealthy climate along the coast; but her husband paid no regard to her entreaties: his sole object was the speedy acquisition of riches, and he therefore readily submitted to every inconvenience.

During our subsequent voyage, wealth was the all-absorbing theme of his conversation; and he delighted in recounting many stories in proof of the low value of

gold in Congo, and of the facility with which it might be acquired.

No sooner had we landed in Congo, than the low, despicable spirit of avarice led him instantly to adopt the most effectual means to attain the sole object of his life: and he unhesitatingly defiled himself by engaging in the slave trade. I had but little opportunity of seeing the result; but the intelligence of his death, which I received on my arrival in Europe, is a fearful evidence how short-lived were the hopes, and how transient the temporal fruits, of his infamous efforts.

'Oh, Slavery! thou art a bitter draught!
And twice accursed is thy poison'd bowl;
Which taints with leprosy the white man's soul
Not less than his by whom its dregs are quaffed.'

On the 8th of August we took our new fellow passengers on board; they were attended by a merchant's clerk, who had

been driven to San Antonio on his way from the Azores, and by a black female slave, to whom Mrs. Fonseca was much attached. The short, but most disagreeable passage through the breakers, made both mistress and servant so thoroughly sea-sick, that Mr. Fonseca's persuasions and compulsory efforts could scarcely keep them on board.

The distance from Ponto do Sal to the island of San Vincente is generally made in four-and-twenty hours; but the monsoon, which is usually so favourable, almost entirely failed us; in consequence of which we did not reach the harbour till the following day. We were, however, compensated by a prolonged enjoyment of the fine prospect of the beautiful island of San Antonio, dotted with pretty villages and isolated dwellings, which lay embosomed in fertile plantations, surrounded by lofty peaks, which towered high above

the fleecy clouds. Towards the south coast the mountains gradually shelve down to the sea; and, instead of the steep, bare, barren rock, so common in the northern parts, present a fertile, unbroken declivity, studded with numerous small plantations of sugar and coffee. Indigo, too, was formerly cultivated here; and there was a fine manufactory, which has now fallen into disuse. The little rills that come dancing down from the mountain summits, over rock and shingle, fertilize the verdant uplands, and flush the grassy meads with an exuberance of beauty.

One of the most lovely spots on this coast is the little town of Santa Cruz, whose pretty houses lie ensconced under the shade of plantains, cocoa-nut trees, and vines. The produce of this part of San Antonio is of the finest quality. Coffee, sugar, and grapes, are very abundant; but both com-

merce and manufactures are in such a wretched state, that these articles are barely turned to sufficient account to supply the wants of the island; this is the more to be regretted, as the coffee especially is much esteemed in Europe.

A striking contrast is presented by the wild and grotesque appearance of the adjacent island of San Vincente, which lies at a distance of three miles. Its scorched black rock, and craggy summit, destitute of every species of vegetation, stand out frowning in singular juxtaposition with its smiling neighbour, San Antonio, clad with luxuriant vegetation, and refreshed with copious streams of limpid water.

The highest summits of San Antonio are constantly enveloped in dense clouds, while the sky above San Vincente is always pure and serene, and scarcely ever affords a drop of rain to quicken the arid soil. The mountain tops are, it is true,

generally covered with lichens, especially the Roccella, which is used in dyeing; but as this was a very dry season, no rain having fallen for two years and a half, we could not discover a trace of them, even when we approached pretty close to the island. Notwithstanding its inhospitable aspect, San Vincente is accounted the most healthy of the Cape de Verd Islands, a reputation which is confirmed by the appearance of the inhabitants, although they are very poor, and subsist almost entirely on fish.

In the middle of the north-west coast the rugged lava shore forms a small bay with a deep sandy bottom; it affords a secure anchorage, and being protected by high banks and the opposite island of San Antonio, is one of the finest harbours in the world. A pointed rock rises more than an hundred feet above the surface of the water, and stands like a sentinel to

guard the entrance of the harbour, which it divides into two nearly equal parts, either of which is perfectly safe for the largest ships. This rock serves as an excellent guide to navigators, and is called by the negroes in San Vincente, the bird-rock, from the myriads of sea-fowl which always resort to it. This semicircular haven is protected on either side by a steep rocky coast, which slopes down to the sea, while in the centre is a flat tract covered with a thick bed of sand, hardened by the sun. Upon this sterile spot, where no plant, or even a blade of grass can grow, stands the wretched negro town, Porto Grande, the capital of the island.

There was only one ship in the harbour, which saluted us by hoisting Danish colours. She belonged to a merchant of Apenrade, and had been lying here a fortnight, laden with coals for the supply of a London steamer, on its way to China.

The captain, who immediately paid us a visit, complained much of the extreme poverty of the country, where he found it so utterly impossible to obtain provisions, that he had already been obliged to proceed in his boat to San Antonio, to purchase pigs and poultry.

A small fort has been erected at the southern end of the town for the defence of the harbour; it has only three old guns, and there is not always an adequate supply of powder, to fire even a few shot. Indeed, at our departure, the Governor was actually obliged to request Mr. dos Santos to give him a barrel of powder, in order that he might return our parting salute. This fort scarcely deserves that honourable designation; for it is scarcely more than a mere natural projection of the rock, on which little art or labour has been bestowed. At the eastern end of the town,

many hundred paces from the fort,

stands the lonely dwelling of the Governor. He is a Portuguese officer, and, with his wife and numerous family, leads a melancholy, monotonous life. His children, like the young negroes, were playing their gambols on the sands, with no clothing whatever except a shirt. The garrison, at this time under his command, consisted of three negroes; but he told us that in case of emergency this number could be tripled; a powerful force, truly, to resist the attack of even the smallest ship of war!

The whole of the little town is composed of ill-built wooden barracks, and presents a picture of the most abject poverty; the consequent importunity of a host of beggars was, as may be conceived, quite intolerable. Money was comparatively of no value; but a cigar or a little tobacco soon satisfied them.

The soil is so sterile, that it produces

only a scanty herbage for goats, and the prevailing drought had so completely shrivelled the vegetation of the higher parts of the rock, that in a walk across the island I saw no less than thirty goats which had perished for want of food; their decayed carcases had attracted swarms of muck-worms, and infected the air to a considerable distance.

Through the kindness of the Governor, we obtained two cows, which had been fed upon rushes and grass, fetched from San Antonio for the purpose; but the poor animals had, notwithstanding, been so completely starved, that they looked like calves rather than cows, and were carried, on board without the slightest difficulty, by one man. I was told that there was no spring in the whole island, with the exception of one which issues a few yards behind the Governor's residence; but I question this, because I every where found

tracks of goats, even in the most distant parts of the island.

Close to the above-mentioned spring, which is not fenced in, a well has been dug, about thirty feet in depth. It contains good water, and is much frequented by the young negresses, who carry their calabashes on their heads, singing merrily as they go along. Drawing and carrying water seems to be the chief employment of the women; while the men are exclusively engaged in fishery, they have little other work to perform except that of boiling or drying fish, and constantly pass hours in indolent repose, basking in the scorching beams of the sun.

Here, too, as elsewhere, poverty seems to go hand in hand with a great number of children; these play about upon the beach all day long, and, at a very early age, acquire great dexterity in swimming. Of this we saw frequent specimens. On one

occasion we accidentally dropped a bunch of keys into the sea, upon which several negroes instantly dived into the water, close to our ships, to pick them up. They were unsuccessful in their endeavours, but this was probably because it was not easy to ascertain the precise spot where they had been dropped. Each of these intrepid swimmers crossed himself every time he dived, under the delusion that he thereby secured himself against the danger of being devoured by sharks.

Porto Santo can indeed boast of a church, but the roof fell in about two years since, and the town has not been visited by a priest for the last four years. The former pastor, who resided in Grande Ribeira, where his principal church was situated, was in the habit of coming hither twice a year; but he was unfortunately drowned during his last voyage, by the upsetting of his boat. His successor re-

sides at San Antonio, but has never summoned courage to undertake this dangerous passage; and hence, this neglected flock has been without any public ministry for years, and seems likely to continue so. The church appears to have been originally a pretty good building, and was certainly large enough for the population; it was adorned with some pictures of saints, but the great poverty of the people rendered it impossible to keep the building in repair, or even to provide the oil to keep the sacred lamp constantly burning.

In the centre of the town is the school; it does not differ in its external appearance from the other houses, except by its remarkably small dimensions. This school was established by the government for the education of youth, but its laudable intention is certainly not carried out; for, as the master is too infirm to discharge his duties, the present generation is left to

shift for itself, and will, in all probability, continue to do so till the post shall become vacant by the death of the old man, and a more competent successor be appointed.

The intense heat and rough paths among the rocks, rendered our excursions very fatiguing and troublesome; and, though I was indefatigable, they yielded but a small addition to our collections of natural history; the sea-coast, however, abounded in shells, fish, corals and corallines. My unfortunate foot continued very painful, which proved a sad hindrance in my perambulations; and my companions in suffering, were even worse off than myself, for the effects of their exposure to the sun were still so sensibly felt, that they were unable to go ashore, notwithstanding they greatly desired to do so.

After we had been here four days, the Vasco da Gama and the Sultana sailed into the harbour, and it was resolved that

we should put to sea together on the following morning. Although Mr. dos Santos had a plantation only a short distance from the town, we could not prevail upon him to visit it, for he was much annoyed that the great expense which he had incurred in laying it out, had been completely thrown away. It was now under the care of a solitary negro, who tended and watered the young plants, but the high sea wind had drifted the white sand of the beach, and covered the whole plantation; the wells were choked up, and the newly planted shrubs were completely withered. Had the original plan of planting timber-trees succeeded, it would have proved of immense advantage to the place; but the spot selected for the purpose, was the very worst and most unsuitable in the whole island: being exposed to the constant and direct influence of the monsoon. In fact, I very much question whether such an undertaking

could prosper in any part of San Vincente, and it appears to me that the only probable source of profit would be the manufacture of sea-salt, for which many parts of the coast are admirably calculated; hitherto, however, no attempt of the kind has been made, though Sal, and some other of the neighbouring islands, carry on an extensive and very lucrative trade in this commodity.

The summits of the bare mountains were partially covered with dye-mosses; but the negroes seem to be unacquainted with the use of the plant, and nobody could recollect whether it had ever been employed as an article of exportation.

The sterile lava-rocks of the little island of Santa Luzia, which is less elevated than its neighbours, are distinctly visible, lying at a short distance from the east coast. At its southern point stand the ruins of a town, which was deserted by

its scanty population, because the spring of fresh water had utterly dried up. Upon the whole island, which may be about a mile and a half in length, there is not a single spot where a shrub or a blade of grass can vegetate; for 'nature withers where the waters cease to flow,' and it now serves only as the undisturbed retreat of flocks of various sea-fowl, and of numerous turtle, which live along the coast.

After the usual expenditure of powder in reciprocal salutes, we quitted the harbour of San Vincente, and commenced the longest portion of our voyage to Benguela, which we intended to prosecute without stopping by the way. We soon lost sight of the lofty mountains of San Vincente and San Antonio; and were compelled to resign ourselves to the monotony of a lengthened voyage, unenlivened by the prospect of coast scenery. For the space of eight long weeks our little flotilla traversed the

immense expanse of the Atlantic ocean, which was sometimes agitated by furious storms, and sometimes as smooth as a mirror. Many would imagine that so long a voyage must of necessity be very wearisome to a landsman, unused to a sea-faring life; yet there is always something to afford amusement to an inquiring mind, and we met with much that was both interesting and novel. Sometimes a mighty whale would rise to the surface to take breath, and spout a column of white foam high into the air, frequently so close to our ship that the whole deck was washed with the falling spray. Sometimes a multitude of physalia megalista, and large bladder shaped holothuria, with their ever-varying beautiful tints of red and blue, afforded an interesting spectacle to the delighted eye roaming over the watery waste. But the most sublime objects of the natural world—the deep

blue firmament, the glorious rise of morn, the splendour of the setting sun, the clear shining moon, the magnificence of the starry heavens—all these are beheld in surpassing grandeur on the wide expanse of the tropical ocean, and fill the mind with wonder, love and praise!

We crossed the line in 5° 44″ W. long. at noon, on the 1st September; but so far from being hot, we were actually chilly and much inclined to put on warmer clothing. The sailors, to our great amusement, performed the well known ceremony of introducing Neptune, and initiating those who now passed the line for the first time. Happily for me, the passengers were exempt, and only some of the crew were compelled to undergo this rude custom.

Our captain had intended to proceed as speedily as possible to Benguela; but contrary winds obliged him to take a different course; and, on the 27th September,

we were in 29° 18″ S. lat., and 5° 49″ W. long. We passed to the south of Saint Helena, and deeply did I regret that the darkness of the night prevented my seeing that rocky island, interesting in itself from its natural formation and character; but rendered doubly so, from having been the residence, and for a time the grave, of the man who made the world to tremble. In these latitudes we observed more sea-fowl than we subsequently met with during the rest of our voyage. The most common were cape pigeons, sea swallows, and albatrosses, two of which we caught with fishing-hooks. From this point these birds, which accompanied us a considerable distance out at sea, gradually deserted us; till their numbers again increasing, announced the welcome intelligence that we were once more approaching land.

CHAPTER III.

The African Coast—Its resemblance with some Danish Islands—Luxuriance and beauty of the Vegetation—Arrival in the Harbour of Benguela—Difficulty of Landing—Visit to the Governor—His Palace—Audience—Walk through the Town—Incursion of a Savage Tribe—Construction of the Houses—The Negro Population—Their Dress—Tattooing and Painting their Bodies—Caravans from the Interior—Extreme Heat—Wild Beasts—The Hyenas—Horrors of the Night—Beauty of the Morning at Sun-rise—Miserable Condition of the Slaves—Slave-Dealers—Annual Exportation of Slaves diminished in consequence of the vigilance of the English Cruisers—Geographical Position of Benguela—Bad State of the Fortifications—Indifferent quality of the Water—Abundance of the Natural Productions of the Country and the little use made of them by the Portuguese—Negro Fishermen—Danger of indulging in the Indigenous Fruits—European Vegetables—Unhealthiness of the Climate—Salubrious Climate of the Interior—Mossamedes—Contemplated removal of the Seat of Government to that place—Danger of exposure to

the Sun, Dew, or Rain—Contrivances to cool the Atmosphere within doors—Dress and Ornaments of the Negroes—Tattooing—Distinctive Badge, and varied mode of Tattooing in each Tribe—Filing and Wrenching the Teeth—Arms, Clubs, Bows and Arrows, &c.—Total Absence of Arts and Manufactures—Fatal Effects of the Slave-trade—Inordinate thirst of the Whites for gain—Simplicity of the Negroes in their mode of living—Want of Mechanics—The Hospital—The Cemetery—Burning the Dead—The Church—Schools—Extraordinary Ignorance of the Portuguese respecting the Religion and Customs of the Interior—Exclusive Devotion to the Slave-trade—Fetishism of the Congo Negroes—Marriages—Funerals—Superstitions respecting Death—Circumcision—Unimportant result of the efforts of the Roman Catholic Missionaries — Ruins of abandoned Missionary Stations.

After passing above one hundred tedious days at sea, we were greeted with the welcome cry of "land" from the mast-head; and on the 10th October 1841, we descried, for the first time, the painfully interesting coast of Africa, and the vast district of Benguela, not the least painfully interesting

portion of that coast lay before us.* We were a little to the south of the town of Benguela, and had every reason to hope that we should reach it the same day. The sea along that coast is every where so deep, that the largest vessels may approach within a mile or two, and we were soon able clearly to distinguish the shore, with all its diversities of hill and dale, covered with trees and shrubs.

In his account of Tuckey's voyage, Professor Smith states he found a great resemblance between this coast and some of the Danish islands; and, in fact, I could almost have fancied that the steep, calcareous declivities of Moen or Stevensklint lay before me. The mountain-slopes which run down close to the sea, were covered to the very summit with the most lovely verdure, and the intervening vallies were clad in smiling green. Here the graceful palm rears its

* See Appendix A.

lofty head above the umbrageous thickets: there, those giants of the vegetable world, the mighty adansonia and the grotesque cacti tower proudly above the numerous dwarf plants at their feet. Wherever the eye turned, it rested on a luxuriance and beauty which formed a surprising contrast with my pre-conceived notions of Central Africa, which I had involuntarily associated with images of vast deserts and arid plains, and a vegetation parched and shrivelled by the scorching rays of the tropical sun.

It is melancholy, indeed, that this beautiful coast is so scantily inhabited; but, alas! its very advantages offer such facilities to the slave-hunters, that the persecuted children of the soil only traverse these lovely solitudes when commercial interests bring them from the interior to the coast. Instead of the smiling cot, the cultured plain, and a free and happy

people, the lion, the panther, the elephant and the hyena, troops of antelopes, zebras, and buffaloes, house in these vast districts.*

Favoured by the current and a faint sea-breeze, we approached Benguela; yet advanced so slowly, that darkness suddenly came on, and compelled us to defer the looked-for pleasure of entering the harbour till the following morning. The tremendous roar of the breakers, which

* Padre Cavazzi de Montecuccolo, writing in the middle of the 17th century, says, that Benguela abounded in elephants of immense size, which were sometimes to be seen ranging in troops of 100 or 200, and that there were also many lions and tigers, crocodiles and serpents; but, in 1825, Captain Vidal says, he was told that the elephants had become comparatively scarce, but that there were still plenty of lions and tigers. He also mentions the curious fact, that when a neighbouring river, which was inhabited by numerous hippopotami and alligators, was dried up, these animials were sometimes wont to invade the town in a body, and give battle to the inhabitants. H. E. L.

lashed the coast with the sound of distant thunder, made us sensible all night that we were in the immediate vicinity of land.

On the 11th October, we sailed into this noble harbour, which affords protection against every wind, and is one of the finest on the coast of Western Africa.

The town of Benguela, especially when viewed from the sea, presents a very pleasing appearance. It is situated in a charming valley, partially enclosed by the lower range of the lofty mountain chain, which rises from the coast. Numerous isolated roofs sparkle in the sun amid the rich vegetation, and produce the effect of neat country-houses, environed by flourishing gardens. The river Catumbella imparts to this mountain-valley such a high degree of fertility, that the manifold variety of its luxuriant vegetation far exceeds all that the fancy of a European stranger can conceive. Tall cocoa-palms conceal the

greater part of the town, and the eye perceives at first only the decayed walls of the fortifications, the government buildings, and a very few private houses.

We cast anchor at a due distance from the coast; and a European custom-house officer, in a shabby uniform, immediately put off from shore. He was rowed by four negroes, who were almost naked; and, after coming on board, and paying us a short visit of inspection, he gave us permission to land as soon as we pleased.

The inconvenience of landing in European boats is very great, because, notwithstanding the sheltered situation of the harbour, the breakers never entirely subside; and when the wind blows hard from the sea, it is almost impossible to approach the shore. A swarm of naked negroes, who make it their business to carry Europeans through the breakers to and from the boats, lay basking on the hot sand, at

the ordinary landing place. Here the governor has very considerately erected a large open shed, roofed with tiles, for the protection of Europeans against the heat of the sun, whilst waiting for the boats; but, strange to say, none of the negroes had taken advantage of this retreat, actually preferring to be half roasted on the burning white sand. As soon as they saw that we intended to land, they rushed into the water with one accord, and wading up to the middle in the surf, came to meet us, with loud cries, laughter, and shouting, dancing with wild gesticulations, and struggling with each other to obtain the trifling remuneration for carrying us ashore.

The impression produced on the mind on entering for the first time, into a country inhabited by negroes, is certainly not of an elevating or pleasing character, and truly may we exclaim with the poet—

'Though every prospect pleases,
Here man, alas! is vile;'

and I must candidly confess, it was not without repugnance, that I got upon the back of a sturdy black fellow, whose face was striped with red earth, and held fast by his disgusting greasy hair till we were fairly on *terra firma*.

Immediately on landing we hastened to pay our respects to the governor, and were conducted to his palace, as it is called, by a good-tempered negro. In the front of this government building was a solitary mulatto on guard, who was dressed in a white linen jacket and trousers, and wore a shabby military cap without a front. He was a consequential-looking fellow, and strutted proudly up and down upon the burning sand, holding a clumsy musket in his left arm in a very unsoldier-like style. Near this dignitary some poor negroes were lying upon the ground in a humble attitude. They had probably come from a great distance, and were

awaiting the moment when it might please his excellency, the governor, to listen to their little affairs. It is a lamentable fact, that these men are often obliged to remain for days together, lying on the hot sand, 'panting beneath the sun's meridian eye,' and after all, are at length dismissed with brutal arrogance, and very frequently without having had any attention whatever paid to their matters, which, however insignificant in themselves, are, nevertheless, of importance to them.

The government palace is so excessively mean, both within and without, that it seems better adapted to shelter horses or cattle, than serve as the residence of the representative of a crowned head. My sensations on entering it were not unlike those which are experienced on going into the dungeon of an ancient knight's castle. An involuntary shudder came over me, and I looked around in perfect astonishment.

The walls were very thick, and bore traces of having been once plastered, but were now dingy and defaced; the floor consisted of the bare earth, and the doors were so wretchedly hung, that they would only half close, or not at all; every thing was disgustingly dirty, while the furniture, which was partly old-fashioned and partly modern, looked as if it had been collected at auctions from every quarter of the globe.

We were duly announced by the orderly, and immediately admitted to an audience. The governor, who had formerly served in the Portuguese army, had been sent to this country for some misdemeanor, and was still separated from his wife and children, who lived in Loanda.* His residence in Benguela, especially in the official

* Padre Merolla, who visited Benguela in 1682, states that this colony was at that time used by the Portuguese as a place for the banishment of criminals. H. E. L.

situation which he held, afforded him more favourable opportunities for speedily acquiring great wealth than any other place on the coast of Angola; and he was not slow in availing himself of every advantage. He received us in a very frank manner, and gave full permission to Grosbendner, Wrede, and myself, to hunt wherever and whenever we liked.

Curiosity immediately impelled me to reconnoitre the town, which was not very closely built, and far more extensive than I had imagined. The streets are straight, regular, and broad, but contain more ruined than inhabited houses. About five or six years since, a savage tribe, probably the Giagas,* made an irruption into the town, which they plundered and destroyed, and having cruelly massacred all that came in their way, retreated with considerable booty. The town has a very pleasing

* See Appendix B.

and romantic appearance; some of the houses are very pretty, and though built only of clay and palm-branches, have nevertheless something of a European air. At the extremity of the town are many conical, bee-hive shaped negro-huts, likewise composed of palm-leaves and rushes. Many a swart negro half raised himself from the sand, and modest matrons and smiling damsels came to the cabin door, while curly-headed little urchins peeped slyly from among the bushes, to see the white stranger as he passed along.

The dwellings of the Europeans always have two or three court-yards attached to them; these are surrounded by walls about ten feet high; and here the domestic slaves are kept. Several streets are formed by these unsightly walls running up on either side; and as the fronts of the houses face the other way, these back streets have of course a very dull appearance.

Those, on the contrary, which are exclusively inhabited by negroes, are rendered both interesting and entertaining, partly by their social mode of living out of doors, and partly by the variety of goods and stores which they offer for sale.

In the centre of the town are two large regular squares, but which have a very gloomy and desolate appearance, being surrounded by the walls of the court-yards, and a few European houses. Here there was a total want of animation, broken only by the clanking chains of the government slaves, the word of command, and the monotonous reverberation of their implements of labour. They were, for the most part, fastened five or six together, and were standing here and there with hoes in their hands to destroy the rank and noxious weeds, while a soldier, armed with a sabre, superintended them at their work.

The negroes, as I have before observed,

do not produce a pleasing impression upon a stranger; yet they are not ill-made, nor is the contour of their countenance bad; nay, it is often handsome; but they excite our repugnance by their frightful appearance, caused by the unnatural manner in which they wear their hair, the disgusting mode of painting their faces with white and red earth, and the strange, savage fashion of tattooing the whole body; to which is superadded, a medley of the most grotesque ornaments, skins, feathers, teeth, beads, &c.

The arrival of caravans from remote parts of the interior, presents a novel and very interesting scene to the eye of a stranger, from the variety of the weapons, dress, and physiognomy, by which each tribe is distinguished. Numerous groups are seen in every street, dancing with extravagant wildness, to some wretched music; sometimes they sing for hours together in

a melancholy strain; and yet the songs contain nothing more than the words,—"Benguela is a handsome town, and has handsome women."

The sultry heat of the cloudless sky is gradually succeeded by a soft and bland temperature; the longed-for balmy and languid breeze, which slakes the fever-thirst of the spirit, steals gently through the air, and all creation, which seemed as if it would droop and die, is awakened to renewed life and activity. This is the time of day exclusively devoted by the resident Europeans to the exercise of walking and riding; the latter, however, is rare, because there are only three inhabitants in the place who can boast of possessing a horse, and I was assured that this noble animal, which is imported from the Brazils, cannot bear the climate of Benguela more than one, or, at the utmost, two years.

As soon as darkness sets in, all hurry anxiously home; even the negroes desert the street, or lie round a blazing fire in front of the dwellings, or, if obliged to be abroad, carry lighted torches in their hands to scare away the wild beasts. 'Darkness seems to be alive,' for the silence of night is broken by the cries of ravenous beasts of prey, chiefly the hyena, whose presence in the town is immediately announced by the howling of the dogs, which slink away in evident terror.

While the European stranger is filled with apprehension at the proximity of such neighbours, the inhabitants, who are accustomed to it from childhood, are almost indifferent to it, although it is by no means unusual for men to fall a prey to these ravenous creatures. Indeed, only a few days before our arrival, a female slave was devoured by a lion close to the town, at noon-day.

The terrors of the night are quickly dispelled by the transcendant beauty of the morning. Earth glows in her primeval beauty, all nature smiles in the loveliest verdure, and the delicious coolness of the atmosphere invites every one to enjoy the early dawn. From half-past five till eight o'clock, when the sun gradually dispels the silvery mist that is spread over the earth, is the busiest part of the day, and the time most enjoyed by the European; the merchant then attends to his business, the physician visits his patients, and the negro goes a fishing, or looks to his maize and tapioca, when he cultivates any, which is not often the case.

Suddenly the whole scene changes; the sun begins to shoot down his vertical rays, and the European, who dreads the fierce magnificence of this glorious luminary like the pestilence, retires to his house for the day, while the negro lies down before his

hut, smokes tobacco, and basks in the sun; but neither dance nor song is heard. The numerous birds disappear; the little parroquet and the African humming birds seek the thickest shade; the songsters of the woods are mute, and the plants, which but a moment before looked vigorous and fresh, languidly droop their leaves. The pulses of nature seem to be stopped; every sound is hushed; there is not a breath, not a motion in earth or sky; an unearthly death-like stillness prevails, which, combined with the oppressive heat, is more trying to bear than all the terrors and discomforts of the night.

On looking abroad, the atmosphere appears in glistering motion; the eye cannot endure the glare of light, and yet the sun is always veiled in mist; the thermometer generally rises in the shade to 93° or 94°, and sometimes to 102° or 105° F. All creation is wrapt in such profound

repose, that the most solitary spots may be visited without risk; because, not even a wild beast rises from its lair, or coiled serpent issues from its dark retreat. The unhappy slaves alone, the lawful masters of the soil, are not allowed by their cruel European owners, to take repose at a time which nature herself seems to have appointed. In the awful silence of noon, the clank of the chains of the passing slaves, falls reproachfully on the ear, as they toil on their weary way to fetch water from the distant river Catumbella, or carry goods to the sea-coast. These miserable beings, fastened eight, ten, or even fifteen to one chain, then present a picture of the most abject misery. They often retain the ornaments and the bushy hair, of which they were so proud in their happier days, to which their toil-worn frames and melancholy gait form a sad contrast. Few of them seemed accustomed to their present

condition, nor is it likely that they ever will be, because their avaricious owners have no sooner purchased them, than they endeavour to dispose of them at a higher price. Others, who have been longer in a state of slavery, appear resigned to their unnatural lot; but the condition of their bodies bears indisputable evidence of the barbarous treatment which they have experienced; half-starved, and almost reduced to a skeleton, they often bear on their naked backs the marks of their owners' tyranny. But if we enter the slave-yards, the picture is yet far more fearful. These yards are generally about sixty feet square, and frequently contain from one hundred and fifty to two hundred negroes. In the midst of this mass of human beings, it is very common to find swine or goats; for their protection little sheds have been erected, while man is wantonly exposed by his fellow-man to

the powerful influence of the dew, the rain, and the sun:

> 'No cloud in heaven to slake its ray,
> On earth no sheltering bower.'

With heartless indifference the Portuguese slave-merchant conducts the stranger into these court-yards—the warehouse where he keeps his human merchandize; but while the sight of this heart-sickening scene harrows up every generous feeling, it inspires him with no sensation but that of fiendish joy at the possession of so much wealth, just as the sordid miser gloats with delight over his accumulated hoards:

> 'Alas! how foul in every dark recess,
> How desperate in its native wickedness
> Is man's lost soul! From Lybia's blasted earth
> Full many a doleful creature draws its birth:
> But search the tiger's lair, the lion's den,
> Drag forth the poisonous monsters of the fen,
> Bid wood and hill, and desert bring their worst,
> And still, above them all, sublimely curst
> The foulest, fellest of the savage clan
> Erects the brow, and wields the mind of man.'
>
> HANKINSON.

All the slave-dealers in Benguela are Portuguese, with the exception of two or three Italians, and their iniquitous trade is so flourishing, that in the year 1838, nearly 20,000 slaves were exported. This I was told by several of the dealers themselves; and it is certain that this number has not diminished within the last few years, but rather the contrary. It is, however, extremely difficult to obtain a correct statement; for the slaves are frequently put on board at other parts of the coast, because, to the honour of Britain be it said, the vigilance of her men-of-war renders it very dangerous for the slavers to leave Benguela. Nay, in some extreme cases, whole cargoes of slaves are dispatched in forced marches to the new Portuguese colony, Mossamedes, which is nearly ninety miles distant, and is said to have an excellent harbour.

The Government of Benguela is placed

under the immediate controul of the Governor-General of Loanda, and has what is called a presidio in the interior, at Fort Caconda. The districts of this government are Bailundo, which joins Pungoandongo; Dombe Grande da Quinzamba; Hambe, Galange, Quilengues e Sambos, Quilengues e Huita, and Bihe.

The town of Benguela* is situated in 12° 34' S. lat., and 13° 20' E. long. According to the estimate of the governor, it contains 3,000 inhabitants, of whom about one-third are whites and mulattos; of the former, he said there were not more than 300, and their number varied considerably every year. This is chiefly occasioned by the fearful ravages of diseases, especially at the season called Carneirade, the time of the heavy rains, when two-

* The present town of Benguela is called Benguela Nova; Benguela Velha, which lies to the north of Nova Redondo has long since been abandoned by the Europeans.

thirds of the white soldiers generally fall victims to the climate.

The military consists of a battalion of troops of the line, and a company of artillery; but I was told that neither of them are ever complete. It seems as if the hostile attacks of the savage hordes from the interior, made only six years since, were wholly forgotten; for nothing has been done to rebuild the fort which defended the place on the land-side, and which was totally destroyed on that occasion. In like manner, a portion of the wall on the waterside, near to the principal fort, has for many years been suffered to fall into decay; and the general government, without whose permission such erections cannot be undertaken, does not appear to be at all disposed to listen to the repeated representations of the Chamber in Benguela, although better fortifications appear absolutely necessary for the secu-

rity of the town. Independently of repairing the existing forts, there ought to be several new ones on the land-side, not only to defend the town against renewed attacks of the savage negro tribes, but to keep at bay the numerous herds of elephants, which, in seasons of drought, sometimes come down from the interior in countless numbers upon the plain of Benguela, and greatly endanger both the habitations and people. On several occasions it has even been found necessary to send the artillery against these powerful intruders. Fortunately, there are no plantations, except one of cotton, in the immediate vicinity of the city, for these would, of course, be totally destroyed.

Though Benguela is situated below the level of the sea, in the vicinity of marshes, and at a short distance from the river Catumbella, it nevertheless, often suffers from want of water. It is true, that this

indispensable article may be obtained by digging only a few feet below the surface: but the water thus procured is of such a bad quality, that the Europeans carefully avoid using it, and daily send a number of slaves to the Catumbella, two leagues distant, each of whom brings home a little barrel of water on his head. This water is generally filtered through porous stones, and even then the Europeans either drink brandy at the same time, or mix it with the water.

Every slave-yard is furnished with a small pit, and there is an adequate number of such reservoirs in the neighbourhood of the town, to water the few cattle belonging to the rich inhabitants, which pasture there. The vegetation is so spontaneous, that the natives might easily have large herds of cattle; the cows, especially, are really beautiful, their horns are four and five feet in length: and this capital

breed is well worthy of attention. Yet notwithstanding these advantages, horned cattle are so rare that it is extremely difficult to obtain beef, even at very high prices; as a general rule, only one cow is killed per diem, at the expense of government; one half is delivered to the man-of-war usually lying in the harbour, and the rest is divided among persons in office and the principal residents. On the other hand, there are a number of fine goats, and an abundance of capital hogs; the latter, indeed, form the staple article for consumption. Although immense troops of antelopes are frequently seen near Benguela, yet their savoury flesh, which resembles venison, is very rarely met with . also several kinds of hares, and, as I before observed, numerous wild buffaloes, zebras, and elephants, the flesh of which is highly esteemed. I never saw a joint of any of these animals served at the table of a European.

Benguela can boast of a variety o birds which are fit for food, especially guinea-fowl, but nobody shoots them for the sake of their flesh. Of the wild birds, the pigeon (*Columba risorea*) is almost the only one that is eaten, and roast pigeons, together with pork, goat-mutton, and domestic fowls, always form the standing dish. These pigeons are very abundant, and, consequently, so cheap that the negroes frequently offer thirty or forty fine plump birds for a Spanish dollar. Every thicket resounds with their clear and cheerful voice, which is almost the only sound that animates these 'matted woods, where birds forget to sing.'

On the sea coast, the best and largest turtles are very numerous, and we frequently received them as presents; but it is remarkable that they are never used for food; the utmost use to which

the negroes put them, is to employ their colossal shells as vessels, or as doors to their huts; and I often saw them serving this purpose in the island of San Antonio. I observed, as a general rule, that with the exception of a very few kinds of fish, the inhabitants avoid the productions of the sea; and I was frequently amused by the number of stories which they related of cases of poisoning, caused by eating fish. Yet the natives subsist chiefly on this article of food, and the negroes on sale in the slave-yards are never fed upon anything else; and, in fact, fishing is the main employment of the poor free blacks. I have sometimes counted fifty canoes, starting at a time, very early in the morning, and returning in a few hours richly laden with booty. The fishermen dispose of a part to the ships, lying at anchor in the barbour; whatever remains unsold, they immediately split like stock-fish, and

place upon the sand. Here they lie exposed to the heat of the sun, for several days, and after they have been thoroughly dried, are bought up by the slave owners, and the caravans from the interior.

A species of fish much in request here, swims in great numbers about the ships by night, and makes such a loud snarling noise, that it actually prevents the people on board from sleeping. I was often greatly interested in watching the dexterity of the sea fowl in catching fish. They resort here in great numbers, and are incessantly darting from the air into the water, and then again mount from their surgy bed. One kind, especially, about the size of a goose, with white breast and black wings, darts down with such rapidity that the eye can scarcely follow it, and by its plunge causes the water to rise to a considerable height; after diving for a few moments, the successful pescador

frequently flies away with a fish several pounds in weight.

The fruits of the country, which by their variety and beauty are excessively tempting to those who, during a long sea voyage, have been deprived of every thing of the kind, are very dangerous to Europeans if immoderately indulged in; and a prudent person will suffer the finest pine-apples, grapes, oranges, bananas, mangoes &c., to pass him untasted, bearing in mind the sad warnings which are so frequent in tropical climates. The quality of the vines must have greatly deteriorated, if the assertion be correct, that about a hundred years ago, bunches of grapes weighing 18lbs. were sold in the market of Benguela, for now they seldom weigh even a pound; their taste, however, is delicious, and they would probably yield good wine, if some pains were bestowed upon their cultivation. I was told

that in the more elevated parts of the interior, excellent wine is made by resident Europeans, not only from the palm,* but also from the vine; however, I never had the good hap to taste any.

Early writers affirm that all the productions of this country are absolutely poisonous, and hence fatal to foreigners; the truth of this assertion is, however, amply contradicted, not only by the White-settlers, but also by my own experience. Being highly interested in the inhabitants and the productions of their beautiful country, and free from all apprehension of climatic fever, I ventured fearlessly, yet cautiously, to expose myself to these supposed dangers; and at the very commencement of my visit, daily partook of the fruit and vegetables indigenous to the climate. I tasted every kind of fruit without exception, though I

* See Appendix C.

always observed moderation, and a certain degree of discrimination, and never experienced the slightest ill-consequences. I found the powerful astringent qualities of the mangoes, most efficacious in counteracting the usual deleterious effects of the other tropical fruits; though they were pointed out to me, by the inhabitants, as peculiarly dangerous.

Mr. dos Santos, on the contrary, was so fearful, particularly in the early part of our stay, that he scarcely ever ventured to partake of refreshment on shore; indeed, at a grand dinner given by a wealthy mulatto, where every produce of the country was served in profusion, he had such a dread of the consequences of touching any of the dishes, that he dined off some rice, imported from Brazil.

Benguela produces a great abundance of almost every kind of European vegetables; the cabbage, especially, is so cele-

brated, that it is exported far and near to all parts of the coast. Salads, in great variety, are placed on every table, but being mixed with indifferent palm-oil, always disagree with a new comer; though when fresh, it is an excellent substitute for butter. The latter article is very bad, as it is frequently brought hither from Brazil, whence it has been imported from the Cape; or it is carried to Benguela from the interior, in dirty goat skins, which imparts to it such a disagreeable, rancid taste, that I never got rid of it for several days after. Strong Lisbon wine takes the place of those which are common among us, a custom which is very judicious, as this wine is well suited to the climate.

The Portuguese missionary Carli, who was in Benguela in the year 1667, and found there a Portuguese governor and garrison, gives a very unfavourable re-

port of this coast. In his voyage, p. 260. he says, that the air of that country is so bad, and imparts such deleterious qualities to the food, that those who partake of it on their first arrival, are sure to fall victims to their imprudence; or at least, bring on themselves some dangerous disorder.* We, however, did not experience, any such effects on our first visit, nay, not a single case of sickness occurred on board any one of our ships; whence I am led to conclude, that Carli was here in the rainy season, when almost all the Europeans suffer from the climatic fevers: and many are suddenly cut off. Those who, like our-

* So fully were Carli and Padre Angelo persuaded that there was some poison in the air, which impregnated not only the water and the fruits of the earth, but even the flesh of animals, that they declined the invitation of the governor of San Felipe, to dine with him, till he had faithfully promised that no produce of the country should be placed on the table.

H. E. L.

selves, visit Benguela during the healthy season, may be disposed to look on the account of the fearful mortality of this place as highly exaggerated; since they find all the resident Europeans in tolerable health, and the heat not insufferable: nay, perhaps, even agreeable, if not incautiously encountered.

The sickly appearance of the European residents, however, but too plainly indicated how ill the climate agrees with their constitutions; and the impartial stranger must acquiesce with Carli, when he says, "they look as if they had come out of their graves; their voice is weak, and they do not breathe freely." *

* Indeed, the zeal of Fathers Angelo and Carli was so completely damped by the wretched appearance of the whites on the coast, that they could not be induced to suffer any of their party to remain; although the governor was exceedingly anxious to have a priest in his establishment. Fifteen years later, Merolla found a vicar-general here, but he was the only Christian missionary in

Many of them, in consequence of frequent attacks of fever,* which has brought on an enlargement of the spleen, have a very corpulent appearance. A Portuguese who was thus afflicted and who had been residing twenty-three years on the coast, chiefly in Benguela, [illegible] to my question as to the general state of

the whole country. Some of the natives seem at an earlier period to have been under Christian instruction; but towards the close of the seventeenth century they are described as having relapsed into the most superstitious and inveterate state of idolatry. E. L.

* The fever common in Benguela and Loanda is scarcely distinguishable in any point from abdominal typhus, except that its incredibly rapid progress is very striking. The stadium of the preliminary causes are often indicated by scarcely perceptible gastric symptoms, and yet the patient sometimes has the most evident typhus on the second day; the re-convalescence is often protracted for years together, by intermittent fevers. Ague cakes are formed below the short ribs, and the unhappy patient generally expires on the second attack of the fever.

his health, replied, that whenever a day passed, during which he was exempt from suffering, he was always the more apprehensive of the consequences of the intervening respite.

The climate affects even the natives; for, during the prevalence of the short rains, they likewise suffer from intermittent fevers, which are succeeded by disorders of the spleen. It is very remarkable, that during this season, even if there be a considerable fall of rain, the Europeans are in better health than at any other time of the year; whereas, the negroes, on the contrary, enjoy the best health during the long rains.

The unhealthy nature of the climate induces all the white inhabitants to seek a change of residence, and many, who are of an energetic character, have fixed their abode in the interior, often at a distance of thirty days' journey from Benguela. When

obliged, by mercantile affairs, to visit the coast, they transact their business with the utmost expedition, and hasten back to the interior, which they unceasingly extol for its extreme beauty and healthful climate. The only danger to which they appear to be exposed, is that of an attack from the savage hordes; but, from the nature of his trade, every slave-dealer possesses a talisman, which proves sufficiently efficacious to induce a favourable understanding between him and his neighbours. But the slave-dealer, as such, has no security against the Giagas; and, although individuals of their tribe are occasionally seen among the conductors of the slave-caravans, yet they would rather feast upon the flesh of their prisoners,* than

"* Captain Tuckey says, "From the character and disposition of the native Africans, it may fairly be doubted whether throughout the whole of this great continent, a negro cannibal has any existence."
H. E. L.

sell them to the traders. These nomadic people, however, generally roam so far up the country, that an incursion upon the more frequented parts of the coast is quite a rarity; and the Europeans, who, as I have just said, live in complete seclusion in the interior, have assured me that they lead a perfectly tranquil and secure life in their isolated position.

It has been in contemplation for some years to remove the government of Benguela to the southern colony of Mossamedes, and the only obstacle which now presents itself, is the delay occasioned by the protracted consent of the government of Loanda. This removal may, however, be confidently looked for; and the fairest results will unquestionably accrue to this new colony, with its fine harbour, its rich African produce, its peaceful negro tribes, and above all, its splendid, healthy climate.

The Governor or Commandant at present stationed at Mossamedes, is a Portuguese officer, who, for many years commanded various forts in the interior; he is married to the daughter of a native king, resident about ten days' journey to the east of Mossamedes, and is so thoroughly conversant with the language and customs of these people, that through the influence of his father-in-law, he can fearlessly venture a fifty days' journey into the interior. It is much to be regretted that he has hitherto been unsuccessful in undertaking a projected journey of discovery right across Africa to Mozambique. If this could be carried into effect, it would be highly interesting in every respect, inasmuch as we have no account whatever of such a transept of Southern Africa; two instances only are on record, of negro slaves who were born in Mozambique having been sold in Loanda.

A few years since the Governor-General of Loanda sent between fifty and one hundred white soldiers to Mossamedes, to work at the embankment of a newly-made fortification. During the space of about three months, not a single case of sickness occurred among them from climatic influences; although, in spite of their laborious work, they had but few conveniences or protections against the heat by day, or the cold by night; and, independently of this, they bathed daily in the sea, a practice which is deemed dangerous along the coast.

There is, unquestionably, no point along the entire extent of the known coast, better adapted for geographical voyages of discovery, or which affords the naturalist greater opportunities of reaping an ample harvest, with very trifling exposure to dangers, than Mossamedes. Every other nation, except the Portuguese, would long

since have derived immense advantages from such a district as this.

Independently of the bad results of too free an indulgence in the fruits of the climate, especially when uncooked, it is considered extremely dangerous to expose oneself to the direct influence of the sun's rays, to the dews or rain, or even to be wetted by the sea-water. The latter prejudice, if so I may term it, is carried to such a length, that the negroes invariably counsel Europeans, that if this should unfortunately happen to them, they must instantly wash themselves with rum or brandy, adding, that otherwise some very dangerous illness will be the inevitable result. One evening, as I was returning home, heated and exhausted after a fatiguing excursion, the breakers were so violent, that the man who was carrying me on his back, was quite unable to resist them, and we both fell headlong nto the

water. As soon as I got on board, I took the precaution of going tobed, and endeavoured to ward off the consequences of this sudden chill, by drinking several glasses of old port. I was perfectly well on the following day, but met with universal condolence from all my acquaintances on shore, and was not a little amused when I subsequently learnt that they were fairly persuaded that nothing short of death would ensue.

While the negroes fearlessly expose themselves, without any clothing, and often with their heads closely shaven, to the vertical rays of the sun, the Europeans anxiously use every precaution to defend themselves from the slightest exposure to it. Hence, every one is generally provided with a straw hat, the brim of which is so broad, that even the shoulders are covered by it. The Europeans are invariably carried in a palanquin,

here called tipoia, not only when they undertake a journey, but even on short excursions into the town. They generally lie down at their ease, and are perfectly protected against the sun by an awning of linen or silk. Thus they can proceed about sixteen or eighteen miles a day, and easily travel to a great distance.

In order to mitigate the extreme heat within doors, the windows are everywhere set wide open, to give a free circulation to the draught of air, which is sometimes unpleasantly cold in the evenings. The people adapt their clothing to the climate; it is very thin and light, and generally consists of white pantaloons, and a shirt and jacket of the finest linen; a black frock coat, in the French fashion, is put on for form's sake, when going to a party; but soon after joining the company, a slave in attendance hands to every person a jacket, or light blouse.

In the houses of the rich, female slaves usually walk round the table, holding large fans, which they keep in constant motion, both to cool the air, and to drive away the swarms of gnats and flies, which are very troublesome. Many negro chiefs are fanned by female slaves during the whole night, to protect them from the stings of the mosquitos. The Europeans, I am happy to say, dispense with this precaution, by substituting the mosquito nets, which are made of thin gauze.

A few observations on the dress and ornaments of the negroes, may not be uninteresting to the reader. In most cases, their entire clothing consists of a piece of calico, generally blue, two or three yards in length, which is wrapped round the waist, and fastened with a string, or knotted together. Over this waist-cloth, they wear the skin of an animal, principally of the tiger-cat, which they worship

as a Fetish. The skin is cut off close to the head of the animal, and is then sewn on the reverse way; so that it hangs down over the string or apron, with the hairy side outwards. Sometimes the skin of an ape is selected; but if the negro be a huntsman, it is his pride to wear the skin of a lion or a tiger, which he often suffers to trail after him on the ground.

The richer negresses add to this simple waist-cloth a large square garment, which falls from the forehead over the head and shoulders to the ground, and shrouds the entire figure, leaving only the face free. This garment is commonly black; but on festive occasions, those who can afford it, are decked with several of these wraps of strikingly different colours, so arranged, that all the gay hues are displayed, either on the breast, or in the long train. Both men and women pay more attention to the adorning of their bodies, than to the

clothes which they wear; and are sometimes most ridiculously overladen with all kinds of gewgaws. Strings of glass and porcelain beads are an indispensable ornament, and the negroes often wind them in such profusion round their necks, that the contour of the throat is entirely lost. The little children, in addition to these necklaces, wear rows of beads around the arm and wrist, and below the elbow; and three similar bands on the corresponding parts of the legs. The latter ornaments curiously wrought of elephants' hair, are frequently worn by adults. Gold or brass ear-rings are almost universally worn, and are in great requisition among the rich.

Another very usual custom, especially in the vicinity of Benguela, is the ornament of a copper or iron ring round the wrist and instep, about as thick as a finger; and not being connected together,

they make a loud tinkling at every movement. The number of these rings is an indication of the rank or wealth of the wearer, and, consequently, nobody is permitted to wear one more than he is entitled to. The most distinguished ornaments are spiral rings, from three to eightfold, which latter are worn exclusively by he kings, the privilege being strictly confined to regal dignity.

The mode of dressing or ornamenting the hair, is not peculiar to any tribe, or place; but is infinitely various, and guided entirely according to the taste of the individual. The women who wear the mantilla, or square wrap, always have their hair cut close, and keep their head carefully covered. This fashion also obtains among the men, and as their heads are always uncovered, they present an unsightly appearance to the eyes of a European. Generally speaking, however, the

women suffer their hair to grow naturally, and confine it with a wooden comb, made by themselves; or a pretty wooden pin, or a porcupine's quill, &c.: the latter serves not only for ornament, and for keeping their hair tidy, but for the very uncivilized purpose of scratching themselves: an occupation in which they while away many an hour in pleasurable enjoyment.

Some of the tribes of the interior, have a particularly troublesome method of platting the hair, and which is constantly seen in Benguela. They divide the hair into many thousand little braids, and, considering the peculiar, curly nature of the negroes' hair, must require considerable art, and a good stock of patience. A red, yellow, or blue bead, is drawn over the end of each braid; or, which is perhaps more frequent, each plat is covered with as many various coloured beads, as it can possibly hold. When the hair is

thus arranged, it hangs down over the shoulders, and makes a noise at the slightest movement; whereas, when there are no beads attached to the braids, they stand off stiffly, all round the head, and give it a very ugly appearance. Those who wear their hair in this Medusa like fashion, invariably place the additional ornament of a beautiful feather on the crown of the head, or behind the ears.

The most prevalent mode, is to shave portions of the head, according to individual fancy, and form the remaining hair, into the most ridiculous tufts; some, for instance, shave the hair quite close, with the exception of a small bunch, which is left on the crown; and which, looks exactly like a worsted tassel. This almost appears to be an imitation of the Chinese; but the hair of the negroes is never so long, nor in this case is it ever braided. Other negroes have only a narrow strip

of hair, running from the forehead, to the nape of the neck, and is evidently intended to resemble the mane of a wild beast; and thus the object of acquiring a savage and war-like appearance is unquestionably attained. Others, again, shave one-half of the head; either one side, the back, or the front: leaving the other half in its natural state, &c. &c.

It is impossible to detail all the several modes, because there is no determined fashion; as I have said, all depends on the fancy of the individual. They do not wear either a hat or other covering for the head; and if perchance in some rare instances, a negro sports a hat, it is invariably much too small for his huge poll, and would inevitably be blown off by every breath of air, if it were not fastened to his hair by a long thorn, or pin. The negroes, however, never use it to shade their face.

The custom of painting the face is general here, and, indeed, along the whole coast; it is practised chiefly by the women, and invariably by those who still hope to make an impression by their beauty. They use a white chalk, and a loomy earth, tinged red with oxyde of iron. They generally draw two or three horizontal lines across the forehead with the white paint, a broad red stripe from the eyebrows along the bridge of the nose to its point, and two large red spots ornament the cheeks, while the chin is set off by a white botch. Both kinds of paint, moreover, are composed of such barbarous materials, that, sad to tell, after all the pains taken, these beauty spots are always covered with coarse grains of sand! Truly, the whole has a most ludicrous and pitiable appearance.

The negroes likewise apply the red colour to the soles of their feet, which

gives them the appearance of being sandalled. These simple children of nature attach a medicinal virtue to the red and white paints, and employ them as an antidote for every kind of pain. If you happen to meet a negro who has his forehead daubed with red, or one-half of his face painted white, you may take it for granted that he is suffering from head-ache or tooth-ache, or some nervous affection.

For medicinal purposes, the wood of the *pterocarpus santalinus*, Lin. finely powdered, is often used as a substitute for the above-mentioned clay; the powder is made into a dough with palm-oil, and is spread on the part affected. In every caravan which arrives, some of the party are sure to be bedaubed in this manner.

The custom of tattooing is almost universal among the natives of Benguela, as well as among those tribes of the interior

who have intercourse with this part of the coast. During my subsequent visits to the different countries along the shores of Angola, I did not observe any material deviations in this respect; but it was every where apparent, that the more civilized negroes, *i. e.* those who have most frequent communications with Europeans, are the least tattooed; nay, the figures are sometimes so very slightly cut, as to be scarcely perceptible. It is by no means uncommon to see a Benguelese, or one of his handsome countrywomen, marked only on either cheek, or on the forehead, with a very finely cut, regular circle, or a small delicately traced star; while others, again, have not only this ornament, but a variety of various figures cut on almost every part of their bodies.

There is, probably, not an individual negro, from Benguela to the northern boundaries of the government of Loanda,

who is free from marks of this kind. In Cabinda, on the other hand,—the inhabitants of which enjoy a far higher grade of civilization than the negroes of the southern Portuguese provinces, although there are scarcely any European residents among them,—this custom does not appear to be by any means so general; for I frequently saw Cabindians, especially in Loanda, who had no artificial marks whatever.

With the exception of the small nation of Cabinda, each tribe has its peculiar mode of tattooing, and every individual is, generally speaking, marked with the figure and badge of his tribe. This characteristic insignia is usually cut on the shoulder-blades; and a person skilled in this peculiar national heraldry, is able to specify the various clans as soon as a caravan has passed by. Caravans, comprising slaves kidnapped from the most

distant and diverse parts of the interior, arrive daily; and I have often been astonished at the extensive knowledge of these symbols possessed by the negroes of Benguela and Loanda. Unhappily, we have not attained the results of a closer study of this subject, which might be of considerable value to the ethnographical relations of the equally important and comparatively unknown far-spread lands of this continent.

In his early childhood, the negro receives the incision of the badge of his tribe from his father's hand, while other ornaments are subsequently added according to the fancy of individuals. Thus the entire body is gradually so completely covered with designs, that there is positively no room for the insertion of another; and it is not uncommon to see negroes who have been robbed of their freedom, sacrificing at the shrine of vanity.

by endeavouring to make some additional ornament to their bleeding wounds.

The colour of the tattooed figure is always somewhat paler than the rest of the skin, and can only please the eye, or rather be tolerated by it, when the blue or red paint is put upon the fresh wound. The blue colour is always produced by the indigo, which is constantly employed by the negroes; though, from its inferior quality, it is not used as an article of trade. The operation of tattooing is performed either by a sharp stone, or by an iron instrument; and hence, lancets and knives are eagerly sought by the natives for this purpose.

The filing of their teeth, which is practised by nearly all the negroes, is another custom which marks the various tribes. The Benguelese adhere to it in the minutest particular, though, in their case, it does not offend the eye, for they merely

cut off a small oblique piece between the two incisors of the upper jaw. In this custom, as well as in tattooing, the various tribes are regulated by fixed principles, and the place of their nativity may be determined by it; although it is some time before an uninitiated person can accurately distinguish these differences, because there are numerous caravans from the most distant parts, and the greatest variety and most minute deviations of this nature are found among them; yet, a negro can always decide with the greatest accuracy possible.

It is asserted, that only the cannibal tribes of the interior, have the custom of completely snapping off every alternate tooth in both jaws; so that a tooth in the upper row meets a vacuum in the lower, and *vice versa.* But as this mutilation is confined to the cisors and to eye-teeth, a clamping of the teeth is obviated by the

preservation of the back teeth; and therefore, Römer's Tales* about jaws which resemble a fox-trap, are probably either fabulous, or a mere deception. The sharp pointing of the eye-teeth, which is described by Golberry, in his journey, as practised by the negroes of Sierra Leone, is likewise very common here; as well as splitting the teeth into two or three divisions, as noticed by Isert, in his recent travels, page 194; except that among these tribes, I never saw them entirely deprived of the enamel.

The innumerable dangers to which the negroes of all the provinces are exposed, from the cradle to the grave, and from which every free negro of the Portuguese towns are scarcely exempt, inasmuch as even in their vicinity man-stealing is by no means of rare occurrence, compel them to be constantly armed as a means of self-

* L. F. Römer's Account of the Coast of Guinea.

defence. Hence the solitary negro traveller never ventures to undertake even the shortest journey without his weapons, and the trains of caravans, which have to pass through numerous districts, are often quite overburthened with weapons of every description. It is by no means uncommon to see a lone negro enter the town, wearing not only a belt in which he carries his knife and club, but also holding a lance or javelin, together with his bow and arrows, in his hands. I never saw anybody with a shield; the nearest resemblance to it was a parrying stick, five or six feet in length; in the centre of which is a kind of cradle for protecting the hand, made of a broad piece of elephant's or rhinoceros' skin.

Fire-arms are very rare indeed, and even the black soldiers are but badly initiated into the use of them. It is true, that gunpowder forms a considerable

article of trade, but it appears to be chiefly employed by the negroes who live in the vicinity of European establishments, and many of whom make it their regular business to hunt the elephant, and furnish the market with a rich supply of ivory.

I saw one of these huntsmen in Benguela making his armament; it consisted solely in preparing a quantity of cartridges, to which an equal number of balls were attached. Thus provided, and with merely the addition of a sword in his girdle, the experienced hunter, quite unattended, will traverse the wildest and most lonely districts for months together, trusting entirely to his somewhat rude musket. His accurate knowledge of the country, and its products, renders him quite independent of burthening himself with provisions; nay, he even deems it superfluous to carry a vessel containing water. Wild fruits, raw plants and roots supply all his need;

and, after the fatigues of the day, he is refreshed by sleep on the friendly boughs of some lofty tree, which he ascends at night, as a safeguard against the ravenous beasts of prey which prowl about the forests.

The skins and elephant's teeth, which the successful hunter has obtained in his perilous wanderings, are then brought to the main roads, where the caravans pass, and are carried to the coast by the led slaves.

I could not sufficiently admire the boldness and daring of this man, and often sought for opportunities of conversing with him in my bad Portuguese; and, at last, told him of my desire to accompany him in one of his excursions—a proposition to which he most readily agreed.

'Afar in the desert I longed to ride,
With the dauntless Benguelan alone by my side:
Away—away from the dwellings of men!
By the wild deer's haunt, by the buffalo's glen;

By valleys remote where the oribi plays,
Where the gnu, the gazelle, and the hartèbeest graze,*
And the koodoo and eland unhunted recline
By the skirts of grey forests o'erhung with wild-vine;
Where the elephant browses at peace in his wood,
And the river-horse gambols unscared in the flood,
And the mighty rhinoceros wallows at will,
In the fen where the wild-ass is drinking his fill.'

My friend Mr. Wrede, likewise intended to join the intrepid Benguelan in one of his excursions; but death soon after snatched him away in the midst of his interesting occupations, and frustrated the fair hopes of those fruits which his scientific researches led us to expect.

The negro commonly makes his own weapons. European sabres are occasionally met with, but I am free to confess, that those of African manufacture can compete with them. Some of the tribes

* The oribi, *antilope pigmæa*; hartèbeest, *antilope caama*; koodoo, *antilope strepsiceros*; eland, *antilope oreas*.

who inhabit the rich mining districts towards the south-east, are renowned for their weapons and hardware, while the natives residing along the coast are, for the most part, strangers to this art.

The workmanship of the javelins is of a very superior kind; they are, on an average, five feet in length, and are made entirely of iron, covered from the middle to the butt-end with long-haired goats' skin. The negro uses this weapon with great dexterity and skill, and boldly attacks the largest and most savage animals with his trusty spear.

The bow is of a far ruder make; it is long, straight, and very tough, and is strung with a twisted strip of hog's skin. It is scarcely conceivable how the negro is able, with its immense force, to hurl forth the slight reed arrows; and a person who is unpractised in the use of it, cannot shoot them half the distance

that an experienced bowman attains. When he wishes to take a very accurate aim, the negro hastily sinks on his right knee, and holding the bow almost perpendicular in his left hand, he sets the left elbow on the left thigh, and is thus enabled to shoot at the mark with the greatest precision. The arrow is always formed of two pieces; a hard, slender stick, to which the iron point is attached with barbs, and a long hollow tube, into which the other end of the stick is inserted. The end of the arrow is ornamented with birds' feathers, to give it a just balance. It is said, that many of the tribes poison the arrow-heads when they go to war, and chiefly use vegetable poisons for this purpose.

The lance, which is the invariable companion of the negro, is generally about six feet in length; it is made of hard wood tipped with an iron point, not unlike

a short two-edged sword. The metal is rarely sufficiently hardened; and hence, like most of their weapons, possesses too little elasticity; and it is quite incomprehensible how it can answer the purpose which it is intended. The lance is generally used in exercises; but, in many cases, supplies the place of the javelin

With regard to the clubs of the negroes, I had been misled by the representations of them which I had seen, and had, consequently, formed an erroneous idea of them. Their size, in the first place, did not in the least answer my expectations. They never exceed too feet in length, and are seldom above an inch in diameter at the butt-end, while the thickest part is only double the circumference; but as they are made of heavy wood, generally guajak, this circumstance renders them doubly dangerous, by the facility with which they are handled, and apparently it

does not require much strength to inflict a fatal blow. The butt-end is usually oblong, and is cut into sharp angles and edges, and the whole club is covered with carved figures.

Some negro tribes in the remote interior are said to have used no other weapon but the club, though they carry on the most bloody wars with the Giagas, who are, at the same time, skilful in the use of the bow and arrow. I have often seen individuals among the caravans from the interior, who were merely furnished with war-clubs, which were suspended at the left side of their waist-cloth, whereas, others are, as I said before, quite laden with diverse kinds of weapons. Parrying-sticks appear to be employed only in club-fights, for I never saw them in the hands of any but club-bearers.

There is no place along the whole coast where the want of art and manufacture is

more sensibly felt than in Benguela, and yet there is no country so rich in the most costly products, in the vegetable, mineral, and animal kingdoms. And what is it that would promote the true interest of these beautiful countries, which in many parts offer the European a healthful and an inviting climate? It is *the entire abolition of the slave-trade;* for this nefarious traffic alone must be regarded as the first cause of the melancholy condition of this fruitful land and its vigorous inhabitants. 'Great gains and little work' is the favourite proverb of the resident Portuguese; and, in like manner, the highest enjoyment of the negro is, 'life without work.' Nature lavishly supplies the latter with more than common necessaries, and the white man's love of luxury is amply gratified by his immense profits in the slave-trade.

The European cherishes but one wish —it is money; he has but one want—it is

money; and independently of the gratification of this passion, his desires do not rise above those of the brute that perishes. It is alike indifferent to him whether he be surrounded by a paradise or a wilderness; whether the mean for attaining his chief aim be a crime or a virtue; and the former is chosen, and even considered the better of the two, if the latter would yield less profit. Such has been the melancholy picture of Benguela for centuries past. Michael Angelo da Gattinara says,* 'Criminals are banished from Lisbon to Angola and Benguela; hence the white residents there are the most reckless and faithless of men.' If he were at the present day alive, he might make the same assertion with equal truth.

Some few traces may yet be seen of the former more honourable trade of Benguela, the principal of which are the ruins of

* Voyage to Congo in 1666-67

two extensive brick-kilns, that have long since fallen into decay and disuse; there were also kilns for the preparation of lime from marine shells, but this branch of industry has also ceased. It is true, that some of the houses are built of bricks, and roofed with tiles; but the fact is, both the bricks and tiles are imported. As a general rule, however, the houses are constructed of a rich earth or loom, which is very common in the neighbourhood; the roofs are made of palm-leaves, reeds, and rushes. Many of the small negro-huts, especially at the outskirts of the town, have no walls whatever, and are merely covered in by a pointed or rounded roof, neatly constructed of reeds and branches of palm. These are the dwellings of the poorer classes, and are, for the most part, occupied only during the night; for, in the day-time, the whole family remains in the open air in front of the hut, where

they take their meals and pursue all their various avocations.

I was very disirous of becoming acquainted with the domestic habits of the negroes; and, therefore, one of my first excursions was to this part of the town. I arrived about the time of their noon-day repast. It was very simple and original, and did not vary much. Farinha was the standing dish; properly, speaking, farinha is bean-flour; but, in Benguela, the powdered root of manioc is so called; and herewith the negroes satisfy their hunger at this time of the day. Each member of the family took a portion of this farinha in his left hand, and, sitting down in some cool, shady place, put the dry, unpalatable flour into his mouth with the fingers of his right hand. Very few of them even drank water with this scanty meal. I could not conceive how it was possible that so small a quantity of flour could suffice

for the dinner of a powerful and vigorous man; but, in the sequel, I had frequent opportunities of witnessing a similar fact —even in the case of negroes who were employed in hard work. Their wants are so easily satisfied, that the excessively scanty allowance on which the slaves are kept in the harbour, before they are shipped for America, is the more cruel and unpardonable. These unhappy beings are in general so reduced from want of nourishment, before they set out on their voyage, that we really cannot be surprised at the great mortality on board the ships.*

Those among the inmates of these little huts who were rather higher in the scale of society, took the trouble of first roasting the manioc flour. They put the quantity necessary for the whole family, into an earthen vessel, which they placed over the

* See Appendix D.

fire and kept constantly stirring, the cook from time to time sprinkling a little water on it with the hand, till the meal became brown. As soon as it was cool, each person received a handful, which he ate without the addition of any thing savoury. After this repast, some of the groups regaled themselves with pieces of sugar-cane about a span long, which they ate by way of desert.

The sugar-cane is in universal request, but it is somewhat rare, on account of the trouble attending its conveyance from the fertile banks of the Catumbella, where it grows in great abundance. The canes are of such a superior quality, that if some care were bestowed upon their cultivation, ample profit would unquestionably be derived; but, unhappily, the Europeans are so indolent, and blind to the general interest, that they make no use whatever of this important source of gain, and

inconsiderately procure the large quantity of sugar which they require, at higher prices from Brazil.*

The manioc plant grows in such great abundance in Benguela and the vicinity, that the negroes have little more to do than to dig up the root to supply their own wants; some few of them have large inclosed manioc fields near their dwellings, and carry on a trade with the flour.

Maize likewise grows wild in many places, but it is generally used only as food for the cattle. Sometimes, though very rarely, the negroes make it into bread, in the shape of a thick pancake; it is very white, but by no means palatable.

There are no artisans whatever in Benguela, though there is not the least doubt but every one might thrive in his respective profession. Mr. José Luiz da Silva Vianna, who possessed the finest garden in

* See Appendix E.

Benguela, told me that he was exceedingly desirous to obtain a European gardener, to whom he would gladly give 600 or 800 dollars a year, merely for superintending it; he had abundance of hands for performing the hard labour, as there were always some dozens of slaves lying about idly in the garden; but the great difficulty was to procure a head competent to direct them.

I looked about for a tailor, carpenter, smith, or other mechanic; but there are none in Benguela, and, consequently, the residents have no other resource than to apply to the carpenters, or other workmen who may be in the ships lying at anchor in the harbour, or they are compelled to send all the way to Loanda, for men to do any work that is wanted. The greatest embarrassment and inconvenience thus arises; if, for instance, a person happens to injure his watch, or to break some piece of machinery, it must go to Brazil

to be repaired! Nay, it is a fact, that Mr. da Vianna was about to undertake a voyage to Rio Janeiro for the purpose of having a tooth extracted; there was, indeed, a medical man, so called, residing on the spot, but his skill did not extend so far, and he would not undertake to perform the operation. I soon relieved both the suffering and anxiety of Mr. de Vianna, and completely won his friendship by pulling out his troublesome tooth.

While upon this subject, I will say a few words respecting the hospital and its physician. The building is one of the best in the town; it has pretty solid brick walls, and a tiled roof. Its length is two hundred and fifty feet, and its breadth about forty. A flight of steps, in a rather decayed state, lead from the street to two large doors, which form the entrance; behind the house is an extensive garden, but owing to culpable neglect, it is so com-

pletely overgrown, that it is impossible to make any use of it. Here and there a few regular groups of plants, which scarcely rise above the rank weeds, indicate that the hand of man was once busy here.

Between the garden and the building itself, is a covered walk, which is intended for a promenade for the convalescent patients. At the end of this is a laboratory, which is called the kitchen, and is scarcely used for any other purpose. The whole building contains eight rooms, one of which is appropriated to the dispensary, one to the use of the apothecary, a small one serves for a warehouse, and the remaining five are for the patients.

Each ward is capable of accommodating fifteen patients, and in conformity with the rules, there were nominally that number of beds in each room. Only one of the wards, however, contained the

fixed number; but as there happened to be only four patients in the hospital, it was of no consequence that the physician had taken one bed into his own house, and that the apothecary made use of another for himself. What had become of the other beds, no one could tell; in one room there were, in fact, only three. The bedsteads were of wood, and furnished with mattrasses of sea-grass, and covered either with a coverlet or a straw mat; there was scarcely any linen whatever in the whole establishment.

On entering one of the doors, we found ourselves in the dispensary, which attracts much notice by its apparently great extent. It contained a number of large dirty glasses, with still more dirty labels, ranged in semicircular tiers; but there was no trace whatever of order or classification of the medicines. Here carbonic acid and magnesia stood next to opium;

there sulphuric acid, side by side with ipecacuanha root, &c. &c. There was an appearance of abundance and completeness about the dispensary, but this was effected by one portion of the semicircle being nearly a repetition of the other; and there were no less than three glass jars of Epsom salts set up in different places. In the centre was a huge image of some saint carved in wood, and which was supposed to impart to the medicines all their healing properties. The whole nomenclature was in the Portuguese language. Latin was wholly unknown to the apothecary, though he boasted of having studied in Lisbon and Bahia, and had served as an assistant both in Portuguese and English dispensaries.

The case of the physician was not much better; I could not find out what had been his previous occupation in some other quarter of the globe. He tried to make

me believe that he had studied medicine at Coimbra, but his boundless ignorance at once convicted him of falsehood.

When I subsequently visited Benguela, the physician was ill, and therefore, the apothecary took his place, and received half the fees for his trouble. When I asked him how he could presume to prescribe for the sick, he replied very coolly, that the physician spoke to him every morning about the cases, and advised him for the best. Upon this, I recommended him to act upon his own responsibility, because 'too many cooks spoil the broth. The physician, notwithstanding his palpable ignorance, was in high repute; for the people affirmed, that he was very fortunate in curing his patients, and he was rich in proportion. The general fee in Benguela is ten Spanish dollars for every visit, for the better classes, and five for the poor.

The cemetery at 'Calundo,' is situated on a small eminence, about five minutes walk from the town. It is about 150 paces square, and is surrounded with a solid wall ten feet high, closed with an iron gate; a most necessary precaution, to protect the dead bodies from the ravages of the numerous wild beasts in the vicinity. This enclosure is, however, exclusively appropriated to the interment of the white inhabitants. A small shed has been erected at the southern end of the cemetery, under which the corpse is placed immediately before the burial, in order that the mourners and attendants may be protected against the sun, during the performance of the last ceremonies. The body is covered with unslaked lime, and several bottles of vinegar are poured over it, to promote decomposition. At a subsequent period, it was our painful duty to consign to this melancholy resting place, the mortal remains of

Mr. dos Santos, a man highly reputed and beloved by all our party. We were suddenly deprived of the leader of our expedition, and with him we buried all the hopes of the happy results we had so justly entertained from the bold enterprise which he had entered upon with so much zeal. Feelings of peculiar regret are excited on looking around, and beholding the numerous monuments which have been erected here to the memory of persons who have died in this remote region, by their afflicted friends and relatives in their far distant homes. A simple cross, inscribed merely with the name and country of the deceased, for the most part marks the place of his interment; but there is one very handsome iron monument, erected in memory of a former governor, which is very conspicuous.

Outside the walls of this cemetery is the place where the negroes deposit their

dead; but there is no tombstone, railing, or other defence, to distinguish it. All the tribes of the government of Benguela, with which we are acquainted, have the custom of burning their dead, and this practice is strictly followed here; no other ceremony takes place, except if the deceased was a rich man, when a few dry bushes are set up round the place where his body was burned, and upon which his ornaments are hung. A wealthy individual died during my stay here, and I saw a double row of bushes set up around his ashes, hung with long strings of beads, carved calabashes, cows' horns, and a cow's tail, which was also adorned with beads. Although the negroes are excessively fond of beads, they consider it a great crime to touch those which belonged to a deceased person; hence the finest strings are lying about untouched in Calundo.

In Benguela, it is the special office of one negro to burn the dead. By the existing laws, this burning cannot take place till after sun-set; and as the burner is quite alone in the cemetery while he is performing his trying duty, in fearful momentary expectation that some wild beast will issue from his retreat and fall upon him, he hurries through his task with as much expedition as possible; but so carelessly and inefficiently was this done, that I often saw him cover the bodies so scantily with dry grass and twigs, that the feet or arms of the corpse projected beyond the pile, without the action of fire seeming to have passed over them. The corpse is laid flat upon the ground, with the feet turned towards the sea. At this extremity, the twigs are first set on fire, because the sea-breeze, which is pretty strong, quickly drives the flames up to the head.

As soon as ever this process has been gone through, the negro hastens to quit his post, and abandons the corpse, which is perhaps hardly touched by the fire, to the mercy of the ravenous beasts, which scarcely leave a trace of the body by the dawn of day. Fragments of gnawed bones and human skulls are every where lying about in Calundo; nay, even in every street, and every dilapidated building, such remains are found; and it excites no surprise, if a man on opening his door in the morning, finds upon his threshold a fresh human skull, which a hyena* has carried there during the night. These animals are so numerous in Benguela and its environs, that it is no difficult matter to find hundreds of

* All the three species of hyena are found here; the most common are—the *Hyena bruneo*, Thunb., and the *H. crocæta.* The *H. striata* is more rare. All three are classed in Benguela under the general denomination of "Wolf," the Strand wolf.

their holes in the space of half an hour; and not a night passes without their proximity being betrayed by their disagreeable howl. By dint of exertions, the hyena is able, in the course of a few hours during the night, to burrow into the loomy soil, which is hardened by the heat of the sun, and to prepare for itself a subterranean dwelling. In the most busy parts of the town, such pits or burrows are often found in the morning, left in an unfinished state, the animal having been disturbed by the noise of the stirring population. The aversion of the hyena from the light of day is so great, that you may tread upon a pit or den in which it is reposing, without any apprehension; nay, we were not even able to induce it to leave its den, either by hollooing or throwing stones, while four or five of us stood prepared to receive it with our pieces ready cocked.

The mouths of these dens are three or

four times as large as a fox's burrow, and run from ten to fifteen feet under ground, when they make a turn, so that it is impossible to reach the animal, while it is crouched in its lair, by stones or shot. The hyena very rarely makes its appearance in the day-time, but during our stay in Benguela, one of them actually lay down in an open space in the front of our house, which was situated in the very heart of the town, and was shot at five o'clock in the afternoon. After it was shot, it bit the iron lance which was thrust into its jaw, with such fury, that it broke three of the strongest grinders in pieces.

It strikes me that the hyena is unjustly charged with great cruelty; I made many enquiries, but nobody could adduce a proof to substantiate the accusation. From the concurrent testimony of the inhabitants, the hyena, when not provoked or assailed, never attacks a living man; but the church-

yards are its favourite resort, and corpses its favourite food. They are attracted to the towns by the prevailing custom of burning the dead, and by the careless manner in which this ceremony is performed; and nowhere are they so numerous as in the vicinity of Benguela. In proof of this, I would state that in Loanda, where the dead are rarely burnt, hyenas are seldom seen.

Among the buildings in the town, the church principally attracts the eye of a stranger. In former times, there were two of these sacred edifices, but in the predatory incursion of the tribe from the interior, of whom I have spoken before, one of them was destroyed, and still lies in ruins, nor is there any intention of rebuilding it. The church yet standing, affords ample accommodation for the christian population, indeed it is so lamentably deserted, that it is evidently next to

superfluous. It is in very good condition, and has several images of saints, and much carving about it.

Some years since, the Bishop of Loanda, desirous of improving the moral condition of the people of Benguela, sent a Mulatto to officiate among them as priest, but he died soon after, and was shortly succeeded by a second and a third in the course of the same year, who both shared the same melancholy fate. Greatly discouraged by these, and similar untoward events, the priests seem to have wholly lost sight of this place, for to this day, there does not appear to be the least idea of resuming their ecclesiastical duties. The church is left without a shepherd, forsaken by its members, and constantly closed. Indeed not even a single lamp kept burning in it.

The church doors are only opened when a European of distinction is to be interred; the coffin is then placed for some moments,

in the middle aisle, and surrounded with wax tapers, while the attendants pray in silence, and then, each bearing a large burning torch, follow the corpse to the grave. The funeral of Mr. dos Santos, was performed in this irreverent, and unsatisfactory manner, accompanied by a body of soldiers, amid the continued horrid din of horns and drums. I believe that the church is not used for any other purpose, and even on this occasion every thing was so awkwardly conducted, that it was evident that even the performance of this ceremony, was of rare occurrence, though the climate so unremittingly selects its victims from among the Europeans.

When we landed with the mortal remains of Mr. dos Santos, we were received by female mourners, or weepers, who attended the procession to Calundo, with loud weeping and lamentation, and from time to

time extolled the virtues of the deceased, in the most extravagant phrases. Whether hired or not, these females invariably follow a funeral procession, and shed many tears, amid continual lamentation and violent gesticulations. Degrandpré, in his voyage à la Côte Occidentale d'Afrique, mentions a similar circumstance as having taken place in Loango, and gives it as his opinion, that these women are provided with some peculiar apparatus, which enables them to shed an abundance of tears at will. It is possible that the custom of having female mourners, may obtain among the several tribes inhabiting the districts between Loango and Benguela, but I never had the opportunity of seeing it practised anywhere except in Benguela.

But to return from this digression: while I was at Benguela, an image of the virgin was set up, in a niche close to a public building, which was in the course of erec

tion, but everybody passed it, without paying the slightest respect to it, nay, with perfect indifference; while the Benguelese will hardly trouble themselves to take any notice of it.

The edifice just mentioned, will doubtless be the most magnficient in the whole place; it is to be the seat of the several chambers, which, till it is completed, assemble in the castle, as it is called.

The total want of religious instruction is combined with the utter neglect of the education of youth. In the strictest sense of the word, there is no school instruction whatever, in the town, although there is a population of 3,000 souls. Truly this does not argue much for the resident Europeans. The language of the Benguelese, is one of the numberless dialects of the Lingua Bunda; and, like its root, has no written characters, and consequently, the negro is exempt from the trouble of learning to read

or write. His highest acquirement, besides the knowledge of the manners and customs of his country people, and of some charms for medical purposes, consists in being able to speak Portuguese, which language is almost universally known by the negroes in the town. The children of European parents, or, I should rather say of a white father—there being no European women here—are not much better off in this respect, inasmuch as it is considered beneath their dignity to study the Lingua Bunda; and they never learn it except in the event of their being sent in early childhood, to a more healthy climate, inhabited only by negroes. The neighbouring town of Catumbella, is generally chosen for this purpose; for, notwithstanding its vicinity to Benguela, whence it may always be seen by the naked eye, its situation on the same level, and its equal proximity to the coast, it enjoys a much more healthy

climate. The young creoles are therefore generally put out at Catumbella, to board there until the seventh year of their age; after which period it is said that the climate of Benguela agrees with them.

The negroes of Benguela, like all the inhabitants along the coast of Angola, delight in music, but as their musical instruments are identical with those used in Loanda, I will defer the description for the present.

It is very difficult to learn anything positive, respecting the manners and customs of the negroes, and they can only be ascertained with some degree of certainty, from those Africans who live among Europeans; and for this reason, each of the innumerable tribes has its peculiar religious usuages and manners and customs, and their porniscuous assemblage in such vast multitudes on the coast, causes such confusion, that the most erroneous views are con-

ceived and disseminated by the European residents, in regard to the habits of the negroes in the interior.

The few travellers, mostly Portuguese, who have passed beyond the table-land of the coast, and still cross it annually, would probably never be induced to engage in an undertaking, fraught with so many difficulties, for any other purpose than the most nefarious of all, namely, the purchase of slaves.

Considering the constant intercourse between the coast and the adjacent as well as the remote countries of the interior, the important commercial transactions carried on with the various tribes, and the daily transit of caravans, it is almost inconcieveable that we should still be in such extreme ignorance of the state of those countries, nay, that their very existence is in many cases merely a matter of conjecture, while at the same time they excite so powerful-

an interest in the enquiring mind, no less by their inhabitants, than by the productions of their soil. Destitute of all desire of acquiring knowledge, and alike blind and deaf to all the impressions of nature, the Portuguese slave merchant,

'That christian broker in the trade of blood,'

eager to become rich, is urged on only by avarice, and the inordinate thirst of gain, to penetrate the thickest forests, wade through the most dangerous morasses, and traverse mountain chains rising above the snowy regions, to enter into the heart of the most savage tribes—'to steal--to kill for gold.'

There was only one European in all Benguela, who had some touch of feeling for the natural beauties of the country, and who took a pleasure in his morning excursions, when he rambled about the environs of the town with his fowling piece on his shoulder. His name was Clemente Joaquim d'Abranches, and I did not meet with

any one who was so well acquainted with the various productions of the vegetable kingdom. He was the first who here found the terra japonica, and discovered the ipecacuanha plant; he had made a collection of specimens of aloe, and was the only person who exported isinglass in considerable quantities. His constitution was unfortunately so undermined by the climate, that he could not accomplish his desire of undertaking long journies into the interior. In answer to my enquiry, why he did not carry on a more considerable trade in those indigenous productions, he said that so long as the slave trade continued, it would not be worth the while, and that, until that system should be entirely abolished, every attempt to cultivate the productions of the country, must inevitably prove abortive. I was fully convinced of the truth of this assertion,* but the day we trust

* See Appendix F.

is not far distant, when Africa shall employ her own children in the cultivation of her soil, and, when the splendid luxuriance of her vegetable world shall amply reward the light labour of the cultivator.

'Dim through the night of these tempestuous years,
A sabbath dawn o'er Africa appears;
Then shall her neck from Europe's yoke be freed,
And healing arts to hideous arms succeed;
At home, fraternal bonds her tribes shall bind,
Commerce abroad espouse them with mankind,
While truth shall build, and pure religion bless
The Church of God amidst the wilderness.'

Any correct idea of the manners of the negroes can, as I have before observed, be obtained only respecting those who live either among Europeans or in their vicinity, and, I can therefore merely repeat the information which I have been able to collect in regard to them.

Fetishism is spread universally among the Congo negroes, and exercises a pow-

erful influence over all their customs and ceremonies; it is of equal importance in the celebration of marriages and the performance of funerals.

Eight days prior to the marriage, the bride is brought to a solitary hut, where she is daily visited by a negro saint, and anointed with oil over her whole body. This office of the negro saint, though not prevalent in every village, is to give his protegée practical instruction in all her future matrimonial duties, and by the performance of various religious ceremonies, to secure for her a happy marriage and a numerous progeny. At the expiration of these eight days, the bride is taken to another dwelling, where for the space of three days, she is treated by her relations and acquaintances like a queen, and receives numerous presents of ornaments and articles of dress; the dowry given by her parents, being chiefly of the latter de-

cription. During this time, the bride is entertained with divers religious practices, and especially with dances, which, for the most part, are initiatory to her approaching union; at the expiration of these various rites, the bridegroom takes her to his own home. The whole of the marriage ceremony is distinguished by the name of 'Lembamento.'

On the death of a Soba, (negro chief,) or even of a private individual, the superstition of the natives frequently gives rise to the most cruel barbarities, which involve the happiness and the lives of many wretched negroes. An almost universal belief prevails among the negroes, especially in some districts of Benguela, that death is not a natural event; but that the soul of a person previously deceased, or the Fetish of some one still living, has carried off the soul of the individual just departed. In order to obtain certain in-

formation on this point, various manœuvres are practised with the corpse, and the most devout and clear-sighted among the natives are consulted for the purpose of ascertaining who was the murderer of the deceased. Suspicion at length falls on the Fetish of some negro, and not unfrequently of a whole family, all of whom must then atone for the crime, either by death or slavery. In some cases, the body is borne by two negroes past every dwelling in the village, till the corpse itself is said to point out the hut of the murderer; and the bearers affirm that the dead man will not suffer himself to be carried any further. Any desire of vengeance, which may have been rankling in the breasts of the relations of the deceased, now acts most powerfully, and woe betide him who has been an enemy to the family. The suspected man cannot even prove his innocence by shewing that

he was absent at the time of the death; because it is taken for granted that his Fetish is not confined to time or place.

There is, however, a means of justification among the negroes, by which every accusation may be cleared away. It is called 'Imbolungo,' from the name of a plant whose roots contain a narcotic poison: the accused takes some of this, and the poison either excites vomiting, without producing any deleterious effect, or narcotic symptoms, in which latter case he is declared guilty of the crime imputed to him, and, as a condemned man, he soon dies from the effects of the poison, unless a well known antidote be administered, or he is stoned to death. We are here forcibly reminded of the custom formerly prevalent among the Jews, of giving a potion to women suspected of adultery: as well as of the ordeals, by fire and water, practised in the middle ages.

The opinion which has often been advanced, of some connexion existing between these people and the most northern part of Africa, in the time when Carthage was at the height of her glory, may perhaps derive some support from the similarity in manners and customs, which may be clearly traced, though we are entirely destitute of any historical proof.

Circumcision, likewise, is almost general among the negroes, even among such as have received Christian baptism; and Dr. J. C. Lang is unquestionably wrong, when he affirms, in an essay on the medical practices of the negroes,* that this operation is not practised on the west coast of Africa further south than Cabinda.

The most extravagant superstitions prevail along the entire coast of Benguela,

* Medic. und naturhist Unterhaltung's Magazin. Maiheft, 1844.

even in the immediate vicinity of the European settlements, and close to the capital of Loanda, for instance, in Marima Bengo, in the Dande district, and in Calumbo; but the rudest and most cruel usages are met with among some tribes of the interior of Benguela. This is especially the case in Bailundo, which is bounded on the east by a district, the inhabitants of which are said to be the most cruel of cannibals. According to the report of a Portuguese, in the Civil Service, the accession of a new Soba is marked by the barbarous custom of killing an aged corpulent negro, whose flesh they cut up in small pieces, and so completely intermingle with that of a cow or a swine, that it cannot be distinguished; of this revolting dish the new sovereign and all his vassals are obliged to partake; and the Soba thereby acquires unlimited despotic power, and the privilege of proceeding

in the same manner towards all his subjects.

But it is needless to enumerate more of these inhuman customs, especially as numerous statements of the kind, which are current among Portuguese on the coast, may admit of some doubts on account of their vagueness. At all events, they add but little to our local knowledge of the country, as it is most difficult to ascertain, with any degree of certainty, to what tribe and village they are peculiar; for all of them vary, more or less, in their customs and religious usages. But, on the whole, they prove most forcibly how inconsiderable and unsatisfactory are the fruits of the numerous Roman Catholic missionaries, the Jesuits, the barefooted Carmelites, the Dominicans, the Franciscan monks from Terceira, and the Italian priests, who have for centuries past been sent to the various parts of South Guinea.

Many ruins of missions, long since abandoned, are still found in the remotest regions, but no efforts are made to renew them. I must, however, in truth affirm, that of all these messengers of religion, the Jesuits, who were the fewest in number, did the most good, and have left the most favourable traces of their efforts; but, unhappily, as Das Neves, in his Observations, justly remarks, there was wanting among them all a Father Antonio Vieiro and a Las Casas, and we may add the no less honourable name of a Xavier.*

* See Appendix G.

CHAPTER IV.

Inaccuracy of Maps of the Coast—No town laid down between Benguela and Novo Redondo—Mistake Inandanha for Novo Redondo—Approach the Town—Rugged nature of the Coast—Baffled by the Surf in our attempt to land—Negro Boat succeeds in reaching us—Description of Native Boats—Approach a second and larger Town called Quicumbo—Arrive at Novo Redondo.

After spending seventeen days in Benguela, we weighed anchor on the 28th of October, at six o'clock in the evening. Our vessel was the last of our expedition to leave the harbour, the others having sailed for Loanda some days sooner. It was determined that we were to touch at Novo Redondo on the way, and rejoin the other ships at Loanda.

The situation of Novo Redondo being incorrectly laid down, even in the most recent charts, the captain of every vessel endeavours to obtain more precise verbal information respecting its position, as well as any indication by which it may be recognised. Our captain, however, who had probably never been deceived by his compass or his chart, pertinaciously resolved to trust entirely to them, and haughtily declined every proffered information; but in the sequel, both he and ourselves had reason to regret his misplaced confidence.

The voyage from Benguela to Novo Redondo is usually performed in one day, as there is generally a favourable wind from the south-west; but we had to spend no less than three days in looking for it. Before day-break the ship brought to, for fear of passing the place, and we kept so close along the coast, that we could clearly distinguish every object with the naked

eye. After tacking for a short time, we saw a thick smoke ascending slowly from a palm grove at a short distance from the shore. We approached nearer and nearer, till we distinguished a number of negro huts; and even two houses built in the European style.

Of course, it did not occur to any of us to doubt for a moment, that this was Novo Redondo; for the latest chart did not indicate any inhabited place between Benghela and that town. We accordingly put out a boat, and I did not fail to join the exploring party, in company with Messrs. Grosbendner and Wrede.

Throughout the whole night, the loud roaring of the breakers had sounded like distant thunder; but as every stroke of the oar brought us nearer to the shore, the noise increased greatly, though there was almost a perfect calm, and the surface of the ocean was scarcely ruffled by the breeze.

The coast was every where rug and steep, partly sandy and partly rocky, while isolated cliffs, scarcely rising above the surface, formed a kind of mole, against which the sea beat furiously, dashing clouds of foam high into the air, and seemed to render a landing at this spot next to impossible. A small, apparently inconsiderable river, broke through the steep rocks of the coast, and in its limpid course fertilized the abrupt mountain sides. Its narrow left bank was richly clothed with the brightest verdure, while noble cocoa-nuts bowed gracefully to the morning breeze, and imparted to the little negro town, reposing in the deep shade of the palms, a highly romantic aspect.

'And gales swept soft from summer's skies,
As o'er a sleeping infant's eyes
A mother's kiss.'

The little bee-hive looking-huts were all exactly alike, and lay in a straight line,

each with a small fishing-boat reclining against it.

The steepness of the coast, and the increasing violence of the waves, compelled us to relinquish our plan of landing here to-day, unless, indeed, the crowd of negroes assembled on the shore, among whom we afterwards saw two white men, should succeed in their endeavours to come to our assistance. Many of them attempted to do so, and throwing their little boats into the water, quickly leapt in after them, in the hopes of pushing off with the first wave; but every effort proved fruitless; the rapidly succeeding waves always came on with such impetuosity, that they capsized both man and boat on the shore. After a while, they seemed to give it up in despair. Our continued loud calling was of no avail; we, therefore, reluctantly determined to return on board, and remain at anchor for

the night, firmly resolved to renew our endeavours very early in the morning, before the sea-breeze should begin to blow.

As early as half-past three, we accordingly ventured upon a fresh expedition, but the scene of yesterday was almost acted over again; the surf, however, was not quite so violent, and after many unsuccessful efforts, one of the negroes at length contrived to master the breakers, and row up towards us. Like all the other negroes at this place, he was quite naked, and did not even wear the usual waist-cloth; round his head a piece of cloth or a handkerchief was wrapped, in which he had folded a small note, written in Portuguese, inquiring what countrymen we were, what was the name of our ship, what goods we brought with us, and what were our intentions with respect to trade? Unfortunately, the negro did not under-

stand a word of what we said to him; but on our repeatedly mentioning the name of Novo Redondo, he pointed further to the north, and we were glad to have ascertained, at least, that we had not yet passed the place to which we were bound.

I was very desirous to visit this village, even if but for a few moments, and resolved to return with the negro in his little boat; but when I made an attempt to step into it, it threatened to sink, so that, notwithstanding the assurance of one of our sailors, who had been long acquainted with several parts of the coast, that the boat would not go down to the bottom, I had not the courage to trust myself to so frail a bark. The boats are admirably fitted for rapid rowing, and will convey one person of light weight, quick and dry through the surf. The wood of which they are made is as light as cork, but it is deficient in elasticity, and breaks and

cracks if it is merely trod upon in boots. The boat consists of five or six logs of this wood, about as thick as a man's arm, tied together with bast. The breast-work, along the sides and front, is formed by other logs, and supports the small oars which are always attached to it. The front is rather sharp and pointed, but the stern is broad, and without any breast-work, in order that the rower may be able to let his legs hang over conveniently when the boat is too short for him, as is generally the case. I do not think that any of them were more than five feet in length.

We were compelled to dismiss our negro, without giving him any answer, because, of course, none of us had any writing materials about us, and we returned on board, so far satisfied at any rate that the first place which we should now meet with, must of necessity be

Novo Redondo. On subsequent inquiry, I learnt that this village is called, 'Inandanha,' and that it is the very same which most maps place considerably further inland. Inandanha is situated exactly at the mouth of the river of the same name, on its left bank, about forty or forty-five miles north of Benguela; the inhabitants are all negroes, with the exception of two Europeans, who reside here in separate huts for the purpose of carrying on trade, as agents of Mr. Nicolao, in Novo Redondo. Here, again, the staple article, of course, is slaves, and, when they are embarked here, the lives of a great number of these unfortunate beings are constantly sacrificed. All the goods, especially ivory, which are obtained at Inandanha, are conveyed by land to Novo Redondo, to the magazines of the principal house.

We now weighed anchor for the second time, and soon after mid-day continued

our voyage northwards. Towards the evening, we again observed the welcome indication of a town, by the rising of smoke near the sea-coast, and as we soon after saw a European dwelling, we naturally concluded that Novo Redondo, lay before us. The captain gave orders to cast anchor, but as darkness suddenly set in, our landing was postponed till the following morning. During the night, we saw small fires blazing in many places along the shore, and we accordingly pictured to ourselves a tolerably extensive place; at least, more considerable than Inandanha.

Towards morning, we again sent out a boat, at an early hour. As the land here sloped very gently to the sea, we inferred, that the shallows would extend further out, and therefore cast anchor at a greater distance from the coast. We gradually neared the shore, and as it was

still very early, and the surf not high, we entertained hopes of being able to land in our boat. At length, we entered a small bay, where a landing may be effected at any time of the day: it was backed by a large forest of cocoa-palms, so dense, that nothing was to be seen of the negro town. On a rising ground, at the southern extremity of the forest, stood a small European house, towards which we at once steered. Just as we were about to land, a European came down to the beach, and, to our no small astonishment, informed us that we lay under a fresh mistake; for that, Novo Redondo was situated about six miles farther north, and that the place, where we now lay to, was called, 'Quicumbo.' Quicumbo is situated in a very fertile country, on the river of the same name; whereas in some maps we find it placed to the north of Novo Redondo. As far as the eye could reach, the banks were bor-

dered with lofty trees, and the whole country was clad in bright verdure. There was a factory in this village, likewise the property of Mr. Nicolao.

This time, we did not return to our vessel, but proceeded in our boat, and gave orders to the Camöes to follow us The flags hoisted on the fort soon made us aware that we were not far from our destination; but we did not obtain a glimpse of the town itself for a considerable time, as it was concealed by a promontory of the mountainous coast. The only habitations which we saw, were a few negro huts, scattered on the summits. After rowing about two hours, we at last had the satisfaction of finding ourselves opposite Novo Redondo. When it is approached from the north, some white houses and a very pretty church may be seen at a great distance.

CHAPTER V.

Latitude of Novo Redondo incorrectly marked on the Maps—Difficult Landing—Luxuriance, Variety, and extraordinary Beauty of the Vegetation—Description of the River—Nicolao Tabana—His Residence—European Inhabitants—Italian Convicts banished from Portugal—Their apparently mean Origin and gross Ignorance—Nicolao's Pretensions to skill as a Physician—Free Negroes—The River—Alligators—Hippopotami—Independent Negro Villages near Novo Redondo—Defenceless state of the Town—Extraordinary Fidelity of the Slave Soldiers—Trustworthiness of the Domestics, when sent into the Interior as Commercial Agents—Leave Novo Redondo without regret—South-west Monsoon—Agreeable Voyage in sight of the Coast—Description of the Country—The River Coanza—Arrival at Loanda.

THE town of Novo Redondo, called by the natives Quisala, is situated in 11° 13′ S. lat and 13° 45′ E. long., and not, as it is usually laid down, in 11° 45′ S. lat. and

13° 45′ E. long. It is quite incomprehensible how an error of 32′ in latitude should have so long existed, notwithstanding the frequent intercourse with Novo Redondo, as well as the constant cruising of English and Portuguese men-of-war in those parts.

This place might be rendered one of the most important along the whole coast, from the immense abundance of African productions which it commands; but the prosperity of trade is greatly impeded by the want of a harbour; and by the still more unfavourable circumstance, that nearly all the commerce is in the hands of a single individual, who is as rich as Crœsus, and who rules over the whole population. This monopolist is Nicolao Tabana, of whom I have already spoken. He is a Neapolitan by birth, but a Portuguese convict, and has lived on the coast for twenty-three years. This long resi-

dence has made him intimately acquainted with the manners and customs of the natives, and his constant intercourse with them as well as his frequent journeys far into the interior, have made him perfectly familiar with their language. The climate, which is so greatly dreaded by the generality of foreigners, has become so agreeable and congenial to him, that, fearful of the effects of any change, he is resolved never to return to Europe, though the Portuguese government have long since revoked his sentence of banishment. He is married to a mulatto woman, and has many children and grand-children; and his fortune is estimated at above 20,000,000 of piastres.

It is often very difficult to effect a landing at this place; and several boats, or bimba, as they are usually called, just like those which I have before described at Inandanha, came to our assistance. One

of them, however, though constructed on a similar principle, was large enough to accommodate our whole party, which consisted of nine persons; none of us escaped a good wetting, and Mr. Fonseca unfortunately fell into the water, and lost both his hat and his shoes. As soon as we reached the house of Mr. Nicalao, he provided us all with dry clothes; and indeed, he seemed perfectly prepared to do so. We followed the native recipe of washing ourselves with rum, and partaking freely of Lisbon to ward off any consequent indisposition; for here, too, it is considered dangerous to get wet through, especially with sea-water. None of us, however experienced any ill effects whatever from this involuntary bath.

After having recruited ourselves a little, we hastened to enjoy the fresh air, for the two naturalists and myself had projected an excursion for the whole day, but the

intense heat, and the inconvenience of strange clothes, especially the wooden slippers, in which we found it very difficult to climb up the steep mountain sides, compelled us to return homewards at noon.

The character of the coast around Novo Redondo is very mountainous, with abrupt declivities and beautiful winding glens. The town itself is perched on the summit of a rock, one hundred and fifty feet above the level of the sea. Here are no naked crags or sterile rocks, but the landscape presents a picture of extreme loveliness, the soil is very fertile, and, as far as the eye can reach, fertile plains and sheltered woods 'bask in the splendour of the solar zone.' Never before had I seen such beautiful palm forsets; and this was also the first time that I beheld the magnificent *adansonia;* the luxuriance of the whole vegetable world, especially in the environs

of the rivulet, surpassed all that fancy conld conceive.

' Shame on the heart that dreams of blessings gone,
Or wakes the spectral forms of woe and crime;
When nature sings of joy and hope alone,
Reading her cheerful lesson in her own sweet time.'

About a hundred negro huts lie embosomed in this beautiful landscape. They are very like those in Benguela, but some of them seem almost to hang on the steep declivities, and often suggest an idea of danger to the mind. Building is not so carefully attended to here as in the latter place, and this is manifest in the construction of the huts, and the enclosures of the slave-yards, which are only wattled fences and boards, instead of walls of clay and stone; hence, if not carefully guarded, the escape of the prisoners must frequently take place. None of the huts here are in the shape of a bee-hive, though several in the neighbouring villages are built in that

form. The walls of all the habitations are wattled; those of the Europeans being also plastered with clay, and invariably furnished with a conical roof. The residence of Nicolao Tabána is the only exception to this rule; the exterior is plastered and whitewashed, and there is a flight of stone steps before the door; the interior walls are merely of rough clay, but on the visit of any persons of distinction, for instance, when Mr. dos Santos was expected, the walls are hung with calicoes, which give them a furnished appearance. A staircase leads to the upper floor, which contains the apartments of his wife, who is said to be a handsome mulatto, but I had no opportunity of seeing her.

The court-yard contains numerous small buildings, which are used for stores, and many of them are entirely filled with ivory. Iron chains and rings, which are

used for executions, and for fastening up the unhappy slaves; are attached to the various parts of the lofty and solid wall which surrounds the whole. Not far from Mr. Nicolao's house is a very pretty church, which was built by him, and where an ever-burning lamp is kept at his expense.

On the day of our arrival, a festival was celebrated; in honour of which Mr. Nicolao gave an entertainment that continued till dark. A number of tables, covered with an abundance of provisions, were placed in front of the church-door; to these all the inhabitants had free access, and the whole crowd flocked sometimes into the church to prayer, and then again to the tables, to enjoy the good things provided by their ruler. Mr. Nicolao himself took no part in the entertainment, but only appeared occasionally at his own door, when he was always saluted like a prince, with the loud acclamations of the multitude.

Evening was approaching, when the crowd slowly dispersed.

There are only nine or ten European residents in Novo Redondo, of whom six are natives of Italy, and most of these are Neapolitans. They have all been here since the year 1818, when twenty-three or twenty-four Italians were sent as convicts to the coast of Angola, some of whom died at Novo Redondo. I was told on the spot, that one of the men, now living here, was compelled to flee from his own country, branded as a parricide; had I been informed that others likewise had been guilty of a similar crime, I should not have had the least hesitation in believing it, for their physiognomy bears the strong impress of crime.

Had they been banished merely for political offences, they would long since have obtained permission to return to their own country, especially as most of them

have acquired sufficient property to live very comfortably in Europe. Their personal appearance and intellectual acquirements plainly indicated their mean origin; only one of them was able to write his native language, and whenever Mr. Nicolao had any letter to write, the pen of this learned man was put into requisition. No such a thing as a book was to be seen among them, unless, indeed, that appellation may be given to a collection of medical prescriptions, with short instructions in Portuguese, in the possession of Mr. Nicolao, who, after many years' study, had learnt these few pages by heart. As he prescribes gratuitously for his friends and acquaintances, he secures their gratitude, and has become thoroughly convinced that he is not only an able physician, but the first in the world! He expresses himself quite unreservedly to this effect, and without any appearance of in-

tending to inform you of a fact, of which, in his opinion, you cannot possibly be ignorant. I had a good deal of difficulty in persuading him that he might be the cleverest physician on the coast of Angola; and this limited honour at last appeared to content him. He had unquestionably acquired much useful practical knowledge by his intercourse with the natives, and his general excellent state of health bore favourable testimony to his skill.

All the inhabitants of Novo Redondo, with the exception of the few Europeans, are free negroes, who live in extreme poverty, and seldom possess any thing, save poultry and a few pigs. Many of these negroes are in the service of Nicolao, cultivate his land, and assist in making palm-wine.

A few individuals have gardens in the valley near the river, where they chiefly grow manioc, maize, and sugar-cane. The

people are fond of chewing the latter, but it is remarkable that no sugar is here extracted from the cane; which is the more to be regretted, since the sugar-cane which is planted here, is by far the finest of any that I saw on the whole coast.

On the right bank of the river is an interminable palm-forest; and when viewed from the eminence above, imparts a character of extraordinary beauty to the valley, which extends towards the north, parallel with the coast. Nicolao has purchased a considerable part of this forest, at a low annual rent, from the neighbouring negroes, for the sake of obtaining the palm-wine, which forms the most important branch of his commerce. His large herds of cattle also feed in this extensive forest, while a vast number of small gardens or plantations, amply furnish him with every other necessary.

The river Novo Redondo, from which

the place derives its name, flows at the foot of the mountain on which the town is built, and separates it from the palm-forest, and the adjacent plantation. The negro labourers obtain access to this forest by wading through the river, which in many places is scarcely knee deep. The great number of alligators which abound here does not render it as unsafe as might be inferred, because they prefer the swampy mouth of the river, which is thickly over-grown with reeds, as lofty as trees, to the vicinity of the narrower and more dry and shallow parts of the river, which is frequented by human beings only. I saw the skin of an alligator which Mr. Nicolao had killed; it was no less than twenty feet in length, and had been preserved by him on account of its size, and hung up in his court-yard.

A smaller river falls into the sea, about two miles further north, the equally

marshy banks of which join those of the Novo Redondo. Many hippopotami are shot near this place; and I daily saw the teeth of that animal brought from thence to Novo Redondo for sale. The eye can follow the meandering course of the Novo Redondo, nearly as far as the second chain of the Trigebirge, where it probably takes its source; for the small breadth of this sluggish stream (at least in the dry season) does not authorise us to infer that its course is of any great length. One of its chief sources is said to be near the negro village of Teté, which is visible from Novo Redondo. The water taken up near the mouth is clear and good, and is exclusively used by the inhabitants.

A second mountain range is seen at a distance of two or three leagues, which rises so high, that, notwithstanding the elevation of the mountains on the coast, it completely intercepts the prospect be-

yond. On their declivities, which are partly bare, five negro towns may be clearly discerned from Novo Redondo, the names of which from south to north, are as follows: Teté—Quipemba—Andelle—Chingo and Gansa. The free negroes of these towns are perfectly independent of the Portuguese government, and although they are in daily communication with Novo Redondo, European manners and civilization have not hitherto had much influence on their mode of life. They are chiefly attracted to the coast by the love of brandy, and not individuals merely, but large parties, that have brought poultry and pigeons for sale, assemble in front of the houses of the Europeans, to indulge in their favorite liquor, on the purchase of which they waste all their profits. The more lucrative their trade has been, the longer does their drinking bout last, for they never think

of saving their money, and, as long as they have any left, they drink, dance, and sing, and play on the marimba. Although I did not remark in them any fondness for dress, yet some of them and especially the more wealthy, were habited in most ridiculous costumes. Thus we saw one man who had cow's horns fixed on his head, as a sign of his riches: he was probably a slave-dealer, for he had no goods of any kind whatever with him. They were all well armed, generally with bows and arrows, iron headed lances, and heavy wooden clubs, in the use of which they appeared to be very expert. They seemed to be handsomer, and were unquestionably a much finer, and more robust race, and less tattooed than the inhabitants of Benguela, and wore their hair in its natural state. It is worthy of notice, that in the caravans from the remote countries of the interior, we find

the same peculiarities which prevail in these localities.

Within the last few years, a fort has been erected at Novo Redondo, and a commandant placed at its head; it is built close to the declivity facing the sea, but as it consists only of a wall of large stones badly joined together, some of which have already become loosened, and have fallen down, the fort presents a very mean and wretched appearance. A black soldier is always on guard, and a drum is beat at nine o'clock every evening. I do not believe that the garrison consists of more than six men, and their little deformed commandant is the only officer in Novo Redondo. Happily for the town, Nicolao has for some years kept a small corps of twenty-five well disciplined soldiers constantly under arms. He has even commenced the erection of a fort on the

land side, but he has had no assistance whatever in his work, for Portugal refused to afford him the aid which he requested; the work, however, is proceeding, and, when it is finished, will confer a public benefit, for the Portuguese fort, as well as the whole district, will then be secure against the frequent incursions of the savage hordes, which, in the season for making palm wine, come down upon Novo Redondo for the sake of plunder.

There is something very remarkable in the fidelity of these soldiers, for although they are slaves, and in these incursions are frequently obliged to fight against their own countrymen, yet they have never been known to break their oath. Another proof of their good faith, and the great confidence that may be reposed in the negroes of these parts, the custom which prevails in Novo Re-

dondo, of sending them into the interior with goods for trade; while, in Benguela and Loanda, the merchants employ Europeans to carry on this business, here they often send a slave into the interior for many weeks, to purchase ivory and slaves. I happened to be in the house of an Italian, when one of these traders returned, after an absence of three weeks, and gave an account of the business which he had transacted; the reckoning was made out with the aid of small beans, but the accounts did not exactly tally, and the poor slave was dragged into the court-yard, where he was whipped, and then fastened by a chain on his arm to the wall, where he remained without any shelter, till he could be sent by the first opportunity across the sea. Deeply did I regret, that it was not in my power to place the inhuman judge in the situation of his unfortunate slave.

Though the country about Novo Redondo was so extremely beautiful, and though a longer stay would undoubtedly have enabled us to make great and valuable additions to our collections of natural history, yet, notwithstanding the great hospitality, and the many civilities which we met with, the European inhabitants had not made so favorable an impression upon me, as to excite the slightest wish to prolong my residence among them. Hence I willingly took leave of this delightful spot, though I was somewhat vexed that I had not been fortunate enough to see any wild beast, a lion, an ounce, or a herd of elephants, which are very frequently to be seen on the mountains of Novo Redondo.

On the evening of the 31st of October, the great Bimba again conveyed us through the surf to our boat, the very necessary

precaution having been taken of making a negro swim on before with a long rope which he attached to our boat as it lay at anchor. The breakers ran very high, and we were all drenched; however, as soon as we got on board, we had recourse to the usual specific, a good glass of brandy.

The regular south-west monsoon renders a northward voyage along the coast extremely easy and agreeable. No dangerous cliffs are here met with, and the mighty ocean dashing in tremendous breakers against the shore, leaves no shallows or sand-banks, so that the ship usually sails close under the coast, and the eye dwells with rapture on the vast track, clothed with eternal verdure, and gazes on the smiling plains without being able to discover a trace of human habitations.

Some leagues to the North of Novo Redondo is the place where Old Benguela

once stood; a few ruins are said still to mark the spot, but we tried in vain to discover them amid the lofty forests which cover the valleys and mountains. There is not even the indication of any negro villages in this locality; for had there been any, their existence would have been betrayed by the rising columns of smoke. Savage hordes from the interior destroyed this settlement, and drove away the peaceful inhabitants, who then founded the present town of Benguela, on the bay, which was at that time called Bahia das Bacas.

The coast every where rises abruptly from the sea, to the mean height of one hundred feet, forming the first terrace of the Trigebirge, extending to the Cape of Good Hope; but here the range of hills falls back into the interior, further than the eye can reach, and the plain thus formed, resembles an immense

morass, inhabited only by hippopotami, rhinoceroses, crocodiles, and serpents, of the largest size. The tract on the north bank of the Coanza is swampy and flat, and of less breadth; for here the first chain of the mountain terrace again runs down to the coast, and forms, as it does to the south, abrupt precipices, chiefly consisting of ochreous reddish earth. The eminences are sterile, rough and steep, and appear to be scorched by the sun; there is no trace of vegetation, except some naked *euphorbia*, which resemble piles rammed into the ground. When our ship was riding off the mouth of the mighty, rushing Coanza, we clearly distinguished the red roofs and gay walls of Loanda standing on a promontory which juts out a little way into the sea. We sailed into the harbour on the 4th of November, and gladly recognised the flags of all our other vessels.

CHAPTER VI.

Loanda—Appearance of the Town—Strong Fortifications on the Sea-side—Capacious Harbour—Frequented chiefly by Slave-ships—Arsenio—Capture of one of his Ships, by the Water-witch—Free Cabindian Negroes employed on board the Men-of-War—Their Industry and Sobriety—Their Idols and Religious Ceremonies—Songs of the Cabindians—Style of Building—Caravans—The Military—The Empacaçeiros—Anecdote—Residence at the House of the Portuguese Physician—Health of the Crew—The Climate—Cruel Treatment of Slaves, especially by Europeans—Caravans from the Interior—Daily Occupation—Want of Public Amusements—Sunday Evening Parties.

ANGOLA,* the capital of the Portuguese possessions on the continent of West Africa, and the most considerable of all

* The founder of Angola was Paolo Dias de Novaes, after whom it is called San Paolo. The Dutch took possession of the town in 1641, and

the Portuguese African towns, is the seat of the General Government of the coast of Angola. It is situated in 8° 46' S. lat., and 13° 9' E. long.

When viewed from the sea, Loanda presents a very striking appearance; it is built in the form of an amphitheatre, rising from the base to the very summit of the mountainous terrace of the coast, which here comes down nearly to the water's

were expelled in 1648, on the day of the Assumption, when the Portuguese recovered it, and in memory of this event called the town, Angola da Assumpçao. It is now called Loanda, from the island which forms the bay.

The coast of Angola was first discovered by Diego Cam, a Portuguese navigator, in 1486. Settlements were soon afterwards formed by the Portuguese, both along the banks of the Zaire, or Congo, and at several points of the coast, to the south of that river. The town of Loanda San Paolo, commonly called St. Paul de Loanda, the capital of Angola, began to be built in 1578: since which time, it has been the residence of the Portuguese Governor, who took the title of Governor of Angola, instead of that of Congo.

H. E. L.

edge. The general character of this prospect is said to bear some resemblance to that of Bahia, in the Brazils. The numerous houses built in the European style, many of which are very large, and roofed with red or blue tiles, the neatly painted white or yellow walls, the pretty towers of the churches and of the hospital, the palace of the Governor, situated at the highest part of the town, and the neighbouring fort, with its impenetrable walls, constructed of bricks and granite, greatly excite the surprise of the stranger, who fancies that he has before him a strongly fortified town.

Loanda is defended on the sea-side by three strong forts, but on the land-side it is quite exposed, being wholly unfortified. The harbour is deep and commodious, and being three and a half miles in length, will conveniently contain several hundred ships. It is formed by the island of

Loanda, which runs parallel with the coast, and, in some measure, protects it against the west winds; but, as it rises only a few feet above the level of the sea a high westerly gale often proves dangerous to the ships at anchor, and some of them are not unfrequently driven from their moorings. The entrance of this harbour was formerly towards the south, but the narrow channel between the island and the coast being gradually choked up by the sand and the masses of stone that rolled from the summit, ships can now enter only from the north, and a negro pilot brings them safely round the sand-bank opposite the northern point of the island, which is not very dangerous. The entrance is defended by Fort San Pedro, which is situated on the steep declivity of this continent, and commands the harbour as far as the opposite island, which is nearly a mile distant. Every ship is

obliged to cast anchor under this fort, till it is visited by the officer, called the guardamor; after which, it obtains permission to proceed further into the harbour. Sometimes, however, this official is engaged with company or otherwise, and thereby hindered from paying his visit immediately, and to suit his convenience, the vessel has occasionally to wait one, and even two days.

About a mile further in, lies a second fort, called San Francisco de Pennedo; it is built on a mole projecting into the harbour; and persons who are versed in these matters, told me that this fortress was the best and the strongest of the two. As a further guard, a man-of-war carrying eight guns, is stationed at a short distance from this fort. Considerable inconvenience is experienced in consequence of the great distance from the shore, or rather from the the town, where the vessels have to load

and unload; for a boat with good rowers cannot reach the landing-place in less than twenty minutes.

There are seldom many vessels in the harbour at a time; during the whole of our stay, I never saw more than twelve, five of which belonged to our own expedition. They seldom lie long at anchor, because here, as in Benguela, the exportation of slaves constitutes by far the greater part of the trade, and the vessels employed in this nefarious service, are of course dispatched by their owners resident in Loanda as speedily as possible. Near our vessels a Portuguese brig lay at anchor; it had been captured five or six months previous by a Portuguese man-of-war, on suspicion of being engaged in the slave-trade.* The captain was an Italian by birth, and was reported to have a great share in this traffic.

* See Appendix H.

Such an instance of vigilance on the part of a Portuguese man-of-war, is unhappily of very rare occurrence; as a general rule, the slavers easily elude them, whereas, an English cruiser frequently captures a slaver in sight of the town, and of the Portuguese guard-ship. Thus, for instance, scarcely a year ago, a ship with four hundred negroes on board, (the owner of which was a merchant of Loanda, named Arsenio, who is still very active in this iniquitous traffic,) was captured by the Water-witch, close to the island, in broad day-light, and immediately taken to Sierra Leone. The extraordinary audacity of Arsenio this time found its reward. While his brig was lying at anchor in the harbour of Loanda, Arsenio invited the captain of the English cruiser, Water-witch, to breakfast on board his vessel; towards the conclusion of the meal, Arsenio jestingly asked his guests whether they were

aware that his ship would probably leave the coast that very night with a cargo of slaves? The Englishman calmly replied, that he hoped he should again be on board this vessel in the course of a few days. Next day the captain sent Arsenio an invitation to visit him on board the Water-witch; and on his arrival, gave him the unlooked-for intelligence that he had just sent his slaver to Sierra Leone.

After I had visited all our vessels, to ascertain the health of the crews, curiosity impelled me to hasten on shore. We had six vigorous black rowers on board the Vasco da Gama, and each of the other vessels had four. In consequence of the great heat, the government judiciously appoints a certain number of negroes to every vessel, at a low remuneration, for the especial purpose of rowing, and for performing other laborious work, as it is next to impossible for European sailors to

do any work which requires much muscular strength. These negroes are generally free, independent Cabindians; and, as they have the reputation of being the best workmen, and the most vigorous race of all the negroes on the coast, they readily meet with employment wherever they go.

There are daily arrivals of large boats of Cabindians, who come to Loanda in search of work, and after staying there some months, return home with the fruit of their earnings. The sole motive of this temporary emigration is, for the most part, the desire of obtaining European clothing for themselves and their wives; and for this purpose, the head of a family will willingly submit to the most laborious employment and miserable fare for months together. The Cabindians are distinguished by their moderation in the use of brandy; but, if they transgress in this

particular, the sole burden of their remorse is, that they are compelled to be separated some months longer from their wives and their homes, to make up for their imprudence, because their scanty earnings will not permit them to indulge their appetites with impunity. Our Cabindian rowers interested us much by their religious ceremonies; and though they often excited the laughter of the ruder sailors, they never suffered themselves to be interrupted in their devotions. Almost all of them had an idol which they carried under their waist-cloth; and, when requested, they even held converse with their little god, by offering up their prayers in a low voice, and then communicating the substance of their secret intercourse. It was almost a daily amusement on board the small ships of war which were lying in the harbour, to call the Cabindian negroes successively into the cuddy after dinner,

to divert the company. The negro, seating himself cross-legged on the ground, takes up in a prescribed manner, with his right hand, this idol, or manipancha, as it is called by the Cabindians. It is a small human figure, wretchedly carved in wood, and generally clothed in dirty rags. A glass of brandy or of water is then presented to him, a small portion of which he takes into his mouth, and splutters at his manipancha, in order to dispose it by this libation for the desired communication. He now commences a low murmuring of unintelligible prayers, and then holds the manipancha to his left ear; after a few minutes, he repeats in a loud voice, the petition or question he has put up to the idol. If his manipancha is not disposed to answer him immediately, which is frequently the case, he again repeats his prayers in the same low tone of voice, and he puts his idol to his ear, to ascer-

tain whether any answer will be accorded. In some cases, this mummery was repeated so often, that the mummery, either from curiosity or impatience, demanded a more rapid progress, and the negro was often cunning enough to accelerate the conclusion.

Before the answer is given, the devotée puts the lower part of the idol to his nose; in this instance, the communication is supposed to pass through the nostrils, and when the intended effect is produced, the idol is again applied to the ear. The negro is now seized with violent convulsions, and the contortions of his whole body indicate that the manipancha has begun to converse with him. While he continues to gaze at the figure, which he still holds in his hand, he relates to the spectators the communications that he has received; and then, repeating the libation as before described, the ceremony is con-

cluded, and he, of course, drinks the remainder of the brandy.

It is a singular fact, that no negro could ever be induced to consult his oracle on matters which did not concern himself; and on my once asking for accounts from Europe, I was answered, that the manipancha knew nothing about them, and would not give any answer; for that he could only state matters relating to the possessor of the idol, and those who are connected with him. Their inquiries are, therefore, for the most part, confined to their domestic affairs: for example,—whether it will be long before they shall be able to return home? Whether their wives are faithful to them? Whether their family is in good health? &c. &c. Their inquiries respecting the fidelity of their wives, often proves very dangerous to the latter, because every inquirer is fully convinced of the infallibility of his little

patron and prophet, and of course receives the answer which is suggested by his wishes or his suspicions.

The Cabindians have a second domestic idol, likewise called manipancha, which they invoke in a similar manner; and, probably, for similar purposes. The manipanchas of the former class, though rudely carved, are, nevertheless, attempts at symmetry; and if not precisely of the Caucasian stamp, yet they never represent a negro of the ugly North Guinea race. The second class, on the contrary, are hideous, and represent in the most odious features, the characteristics of the Hottentots, especially the great development of Musculi Glutei; the shape of the nose, and position of the eyes, which are peculiar to that race. Besides this deformity, there is a great prominency of the belly, to which is fastened a small metal or glass mirror, which enables the divinity to por-

tray to the worshipper any object he may desire to see, even at the greatest distance. None but the owner of the idol can obtain a sight of these revelations, and that only after previous ceremonies and prayers; the successful result of which is indicated by his convulsive movements. Thus I begged one man who was consulting his idol, to tell me what his wives were now doing? to which he replied, that one was on the road, fetching manioc, and that another was spinning cotton, &c.; the animation with which he spoke was so great, that I could almost have believed that he saw his wives before him.

All African idols which are seen among the various tribes in Angola, are distinguished by the peculiarity of having a hole filled with black resin, in some part or other of the body; for instance, the wooden head is usually hollow, and filled

up with this resin; and where this is not the case, it is on the breast or the back. Here I never saw an idol without this mark, and, consequently, I think it may be safely assumed that it originated in these countries. Upon examination, it is generally found that the resin conceals something of value, for instance—a piece of fine, European cloth, a glass bead, a ring, &c. which imparts peculiar worth to the idol.

The manufacture of these idols is confined to a peculiar class of workmen, who, while engaged on this work, are not allowed to follow any other employment; until their task is completed, they are placed under the superintendence of a priest, and forbidden to hold intercourse with any of their relations and acquaintances. This ceremonial regulation, is doubtless the cause of the high price at which these idols are sold; and

those negroes who are too poor to purchase a manipancha, must be content with a Fetish of their own manufacture.

The first day of our arrival was completely broken by visits from several of the principal persons of Loanda, and instead of rambling about the town, as I had purposed, I was forced to accept the invitation of the physician, a Spaniard by birth, who fills the highest medical office on the Portuguese coast, and to accompany him to his residence. We had scarcely put off from the ship, when his four vigorous Cabindian rowers, who were, however, his slaves, struck up their inharmonious and singular song. It seemed to be a conversation carried on between two parties; for it commenced by the eldest of the rowers, who begun every strophe, and was responded to by the rest, with an antistrophe. It is monotonous and very disagreeable, and

opens with: *A bu-bu-bu-bu-bu*, to which the chorus reply, *A. bia.* The leader then articulates in Portuguese, *Quem viro o mundo?* to which the others reply, *Maria Segunda.* They conclude in the Cabinda language, which is evidently a dialect of the Lingua Bunda.

The chief rower asserted that he was by birth a prince, and was the son of the king of Cabinda, and in confirmation of this statement, he exhibited three iron rings on his left arm, none but a royal personage, being allowed to wear more than two. Even in a state of slavery, the negroes attach great importance to alliance with the blood royal, it is a subject of great personal pride, and the claim is recognised by all the other negroes.

Next to nothing has been done here to effect a convenient landing; but as the opposite island affords perfect protection

against the breakers, there is far less difficulty here than in Benguela. There is, however, a handsome flight of stone steps near the Exchange, which is always accessible, except at very low water. The house of the physician lay close to the shore, and we landed dryshod by means of a plank, after which the men drew the boat ashore and placed it under the thatched boat-house, to protect it against the heat of the sun.

When I was in Benguela I often heard mention of the splendid buildings of Loanda; but as all the houses in that town are very mean, I formed no great expectations of this city. I soon perceived, however, that I had been incorrect in my surmises, for, instead of the wretched hovels which I had of late been accustomed to; I found almost all the houses of Loanda built of brick, and roofed with

red or blue tiles.* They are generally two stories high, have no chimneys, and the exterior is painted white or yellow, which gives them a very fresh appearance. The court-yard, instead of being walled in, is surrounded by a high fence, and contains several small negro tents, and the kitchen belonging to the dwelling house. Only the palace and a few other government buildings are furnished with glass-windows, for the equable temperature of the climate renders them superfluous, and the shutters afford adequate protection against the sun and draughts of air.

* Although Loanda made so favourable an impression upon the author, its decline during the last century and a half has been most striking. It was once celebrated for the magnificence of its churches, and other ecclesiastical buildings. Father Cavazzi says, in 1667, "that it it was surrounded by temples and monasteries, instead of bastions: that it was the seat of a bishop, and contained a cathedral, a convent, an hospital, and a Jesuits' college of great extent." H. E. L.

It is a singular fact, that the inhabitants are not apprehensive of taking cold from exposure to a current of air; they allow it to have free circulation, by opening the shutters on all sides, even when they are heated by dancing; while on the other hand they are very fearful of exposure to the sun or rain. As the body is in a constant state of perspiration in these latitudes, a draught of air is sensibly felt, especially in the evening, and is doubtless the origin of many disorders which tend to bring the climate into worse repute than it really deserves.

We met large caravans in the streets, and a singular contrast was presented between those which were coming from the interior, and those which were returning: the former were heavily laden with goods, while the latter were leaving the town with insignificant trifles; such as dried fish, a little brandy, some gunpowder, an orna-

ment of dress, or perhaps a looking-glass. Paltry articles of this kind are the only profits which these caravans derive from their fatiguing journeys, which are often some hundred miles in extent, and are attended by many dangers.

On our arrival at the residence of the physician, the negro sentinel—whose uniform, by the bye, consisted of a mat-apron and a strip of the skin of some wild beast wound round his head, presented arms with his large heavy musket. This soldier belonged to the Campanhia d'Empacaçeiros, a regiment which is composed entirely of natives of the interior, and forms an absolutely indispensible support to the Portuguese troops. They are celebrated as good marksmen, and the most adventurous hunters. Whenever military assistance is required from Loanda, on a sudden emergency, the Empacaçeiros alone are invariably employed; because no

European can endure the forced marches, especially if the distance should be great. The officer in command is a white man, born in this country; he holds the rank of captain, and wears the Portuguese uniform. It is a somewhat novel regulation, that at whatever post these soldiers may be stationed, they are relieved only once a week, and, while on duty, are supported according to prescribed rules by the persons whom they are appointed to guard. This service appears to be hard, but it is not so in reality; because their usual mode of life is totally destitute of comfort, and their barracks are not even supplied with beds, or protected by walls. While on service of this kind, the soldier puts his musket quietly into a corner, and, lying down in the sun, sleeps for hours, till he is awakened to go on a message, or till hunger and thirst rouse him from his lethargy.

If, during the night, a wild beast is supposed to be in the neighbourhood, the sentinel hastily knocks at the door and takes refuge in the house.

The courage and undaunted resolution of these men is never more clearly manifested, than when they are sent to some distant fort, by the Governor-general. For this service one of the Empacaçeiros is invariably selected, and trusting only to his musket and his adroitness, he undertakes solitary journeys which often last for many months, in spite of the wilderness and the innumerable dangers by which his path is beset.* Nay, he is so independent,

* The distances are calculated by day's journeys, each of 5 leagues, 18 to a degree, and are reckoned from Loanda to the various Presidios, as follows: Bihé 300 leagues; San José d'Encôge, or as Pedras Negras 140 to 150 leagues; Pungo Andongo, or Pedras de Pungo Andongo, 85 to 90 leagues; Cambambe, 75 leagues; Ambáca 75 leagues; Muxima 50 leagues; Massangano 45 leagues; Carrillo 40 leagues: Golungo Alto 30 to 35 leagues; Golungo Baixo 20

that he does not even furnish himself with provisions, or carry a water-vessel with him. His accurate knowledge of the country and its productions, renders all supplies of this kind superfluous; a dozen ball cartridges, a dagger and one or more fetishes, constitute the sum-total of his travelling equipage. There are many proverbial expressions current among these soldiers which indicate their courage and mode of life; for instance, 'He who has never looked a lion in the face, has given no proof of his valour;' 'He who cannot pass a day without eating and drinking, is no man.'

Shortly before my arrival, the following characteristic incident occurred to an Empacaçeiro as he was returning from Messangano, whither he had been sent by the

to 25 leagues; Zenza de Golungo 20 leagues; Icollo e Bengo 10 leagues; Dande 10 leagues; Bengo 5 leagues.

Governor. While yet at some distance from Loanda, which he was anxious to reach before sun-rise, a lion suddenly rose up close beside him. The man was obliged to fire in self-defence; but the wounded animal sprung upon him and struck him to the ground, with a blow of his paw. A few hours after, some negroes passing that way, found the soldier insensible under the claws of the dead lion. He was conveyed to the hospital, where he expired in a few days; but shortly before his death, he inquired anxiously whether the lion was really killed, and on being answered in the affirmative, he expressed great satisfaction, and declared that the certainty of having taken vengeance on his enemy, would enable him to die contented.

The only ornament worn by the Empacaçeiro, consists of a kind of diadem, made of a strip of the skin of some wild

beast. This is fastened round his head in such a manner that the ends, which are tied together, project horizontally for some inches from the back of the head. This skin is always the trophy of his victory over his four-footed enemy, and consequently confers a peculiar dignity, which is so nicely marked that the wearer of a lion's tail is more highly honoured than he who has only the skin of a tiger-cat, a hyeana, or an ounce.

On entering the house of the physician, several young negresses were at hand to open the doors for us, and we ascended a fine stone staircase which led from the spacious hall to the upper story. We passed the study, which resembled a saloon in size, and then going through folding-doors, entered the large drawing-room where the lady was reclining at the window, in a Brazilian rocking-chair, and three or four young female slaves were

seated on the ground near her, employed in needle-work. The elegance of the apartment, the walls and floor of which were handsomely painted, the costly furniture, and the tasteful attire of the lady, gave an agreeable air of comfort and wealth to the whole. Two little slaves were sitting in a corner with a couple of pretty monkeys, which they held by a ribbon, waiting for a signal from their mistress to bring forward her little pets, with which she frequently played.

The lady courteously rose to receive us, and extended her pretty hand for us to kiss. She was a native of Spain, and although she had resided here for six years, the heat of the climate had been unable to extinguish the fire of her fine dark eyes. Her raven hair hung in two thick tresses over her shoulders, and when she smiled, she displayed a magnificient set of pearly teeth. The con-

tour of her limbs had not, as is usually the case, suffered from the effects of the torrid zone, and her clear olive complexion, slightly tinged by the beams of the sun, was extremely interesting and expressive.

Her little sempstresses were immediately dismissed, to fetch water and hollands, which proved highly acceptable after our morning's ramble.

I was very desirous of residing on shore, during our sojourn here, and as there are no lodging houses, every stranger is indebted to the hospitality of some resident; and I was accordingly very happy, for many reasons, to accept the invitation which I received from the physician on my first visit.

I returned on board, in the evening, and immediately set about collecting my scattered effects, in order to take them ashore with me. The excel-

lent health of all the ship's crews, admitted of my living at some distance from them, and I accordingly fearlessly removed to the house of the physician, carrying my medicine chest with me. I was in high spirits, and eager to enter upon the various interesting scenes that I expected to visit. I took up my abode ashore on the 5th November; my host assigned me a spacious room with large windows, and I partook of all the conveniences and comforts, which a European, newly arrived in a tropical country, generally longs for in vain. Among these, not the least was a luxurious bed, with close mosquito nets, of a fine, close texture, and the attendance of numerous black servants, who were at my beck, for anything I might require. The cordial hospitality of my new host, held out the promise of making my residence highly agreeable, and, for a few weeks I wil-

lingly bade adieu to the inconveniences of a sea-faring life, to which I was by this time pretty well accustomed.

Though I was now more than seventy geographical miles nearer to the equator, the heat did not appear to me at all more considerable than in Benguela; and during my seven weeks' residence, I never saw the thermometer above 90° Fah.; on an average, the mercury used to rise in the hottest time of the day, only to 85° Fah.; whereas, a few weeks before, the heat in Benguela was, every day, at least from 89° to 90° Fah.

During the three first days of my residence, the thermometer, which hung in an open window sheltered from the sun and the strong currents of air, showed a temperature of

Nov. 7,	9, A.M.	79.	12. A.M.	81½.	4. P.M.	79
„ 8,	„ „	79.	„ „	79½	„ „	79.
„ 9,	„ „	79½.	„ „	84.	„ „	83½

These degrees of heat are, it is true, not wholly unknown in Northern Germany, but in Africa they appear much greater to the European, and, if he were equipped in a dress unsuitable to the climate, and lived in a house arranged in the European style, this temperature would be quite intolerable. Every exertion is carefully avoided during the hot hours of the day, *i. e.* from eight in the morning, till four in the afternoon; no one then thinks of leaving his house, unless compelled by business; in which case, he is carried in a tipoia, on the shoulders of two negroes, protected from the sun by an awning. At that time of day, none but a rash European would venture to go through the streets on foot; and those who are already acquainted with the country, consider it their duty to warn the unwary stranger, and to offer him a tipoia. In fact, the arid sandy ground is so hot,

that a person wearing thin shoes, is unable to stand still, even for a few minutes, and the hot sand is even more dreaded than the scorching rays of the sun itself, and therefore some Europeans, when they are called from home, at this time of the day, ride on little spirited Brazilian horses, followed by a running slave, who must be ready to hold the bridle, when the rider dismounts. If the horse proceeds at a quick pace, the slave lays holds on its tail, and is thus dragged along.

The physician used to leave home about five o'clock in the morning, and proceed to the hospital, which lay at the other end of the town, and afterwards visited his patients, who resided in various quarters, from which round he always returned soon after eight. His little negro slave invariably followed in the manner above described, and on his return immediately took his station behind the chair of his master, who,

after such exertion, stood in need of a good breakfast. Of course it was quite out of the question, to pay any regard to the fatigues of the servant, who stood there perspiring and breathless; the poor fellow even esteemed himself fortunate, if his legs had enabled him to run fast enough to save him from severe chastisement from his angry master.

Only one European merchant, the notorious slave-dealer Arsenio, was attended by a white servant on horseback; and he very courteously placed both the man and horse at my command, an advantage of of which I frequently availed myself. A rapid mode of travelling was indispensable to Mr. Arsenio, for he was often obliged to take very long journeys on horseback during the night, when his personal presence was suddenly required at the place where his slaves were embarked. Considerable and repeated losses had induced

him to adopt the plan of embarking the slaves during the night at a distance from Loanda. One morning, when I paid him a professional visit on account of a chronic disorder of the liver, to which he had become subject by his long residence in different parts of Brazil, he told me that, although he was so ill, he had ridden sixteen leagues during the preceding night, in order to be present at the embarkation of his slaves to the south of the river Dande.

I had scarcely been in possession of my new lodgings for an hour, and was occupied in arranging my effects, when my attention was suddenly attracted by the sound of stripes, repeated at regular intervals. I soon perceived that some person was undergoing corporal chastisement in the court-yard, and at once hastened to the lady of the house; I found her sitting as usual at the open window, enjoying the cool sea-breeze and the fine prospect of

the harbour, while a young negress was busily engaged in needlework at her side. To my anxious inquiry, respecting the loud beating which still continued, she replied, smiling, that one of her needle-women was receiving, by her orders, six dozen palmetadas (blows in the palm of the hand,) because her stitches were badly made. My indignation and disgust being excited in the highest degree, Donna Catarina was induced to send the other girl to the court-yard, with orders that the punishment should be discontinued.

She was so civil as to send immediately for the instrument with which the chastisement had been administered, assuring me, at the same time, that this punishment scarcely gave any pain, and was imposed by her only upon the youngest slaves, and for the most trivial fault! The instrument consisted of a piece of Guaja wood, nearly two feet in length;

at one end of the round handle was a flat circle, about the size of a hand, perforated with holes, to deaden the sound while used in inflicting punishment. In spite of her assertions to the contrary, I had subsequently, frequent opportunities of seeing the hands of the poor slaves much swollen and lacerated, nay, bleeding from the effects of this punishment, which is practised along the entire coast of Angola. To add to her cruelty, my hostess compelled the sufferers at once to return to work.

During my residence of seven weeks in her house, not a single day passed in which this stern Spanish woman did not cause this punishment to be inflicted several times; and the abhorrence which I repeatedly expressed, produced no other effect than that it was generally carried into execution during my absence. My earnest expostulations were met with the observation, that I must learn from expe-

rience how the negroes must be trained. The notion, which is almost universally prevalent in this country, that the negroes are not men, but, as the Portuguese usually say, *sao macacos* (monkeys), may be a principal cause why the slave, in very rare cases only, meets with humane treatment from Europeans; but Donna Catarina, the wife of the physician, seemed to feel a real pleasure in standing in the balcony, and with a fiendish smile, looking upon the poor wretches writhing under the whip. Hence it was, that every one in Loanda preferred purchasing slaves which had been disciplined under the eye of Donna Catarina, and paid a higher price for them, than for those which were trained in other houses.

I remarked just now, that the European seldom treats his slaves with lenity; nay, I must candidly confess, that I met with very few instances of the kind; whereas,

the native, whom worldly success has made the owner of slaves, never practises such inhuman cruelty; at any rate, a case of this kind never came under my notice, either in Benguela or Loanda, although some of the wealthy slave-owners in both towns, who were themselves formerly slaves, have a great number in their immediate service. Thus, for instance, Donna Anna Oberthaly frequently expressed her disapprobation of the cruelty of my hostess, and observed, that there would be no surer means to induce her to amend her conduct, than to receive a severe castigation herself.

Donna Anna was born in the interior of Africa, and brought as a slave to Loanda, where she now lives in great style, and carries on a prosperous trade in slaves; but I must do her the justice to say, that she practises no wanton cruelty, but, on the contrary, treats her dependants with

great humanity. None of her numerous slaves bore upon their backs any traces of having suffered punishment; and whenever a grievous fault was committed, she endeavoured to sell the culprit rather than inflict a severe chastisement. Notwithstanding this mild treatment, her people were well trained, and very skilful in all domestic duties.

Our daily routine of life offered, upon the whole, but little variety. We rose about five o'clock in the morning, when the physician immediately went out and visited his patients; his wife inspected and directed her household; and I watched from the window, the numerous caravans which generally arrived early in the morning, and which consisted of different tribes distingushed by their various costumes and weapons. To a stranger, this scene is of course one of the most interesting occurrences of the day, and he is not tired of

looking at it every morning for hours together. The petty dealer then carries on his business with the greatest success; because, in fact, that is his only opportunity for purchasing a few slaves, and small quantities of goods of the most diverse kinds. The merchant, who is, properly speaking, the slave-dealer, generally employs two or three cacheiros, (clerks), whom he sends by turns into the interior—on the same plan as European commercial travellers,—to buy slaves, or to give commissions for their purchase; and therefore, although there are numerous caravans of slaves, yet very few are unsold by the time they arrive; and hence, the petty dealer in the town can only procure the few slaves whom those commissioners have missed.

A great proportion of the caravans bring elephants' teeth, many of which are so large, that two negroes can scarcely carry

one tooth, which is fastened to a strong bamboo, and rests upon their shoulders. I have often seen caravans, consisting of more than two thousand persons, every one of whom carried some kind of wares. This vast influx of people, from different quarters, their motley appearance, the variety and abundance of their merchandise, their strange dialects, and singular manners, present an ever-changing scene, and give to the streets of Loanda the greatest animation, especially when the goods have been in much demand, and the fortunate sellers remain there some days to spend a portion of their gains in drinking brandy. It is, perhaps, well that the negro is not temperate in the enjoyment of his stock of spirituous liquors, but that he greedily drinks all he has, when he falls down, and sleeps away his state of inebriety, just in the same manner as Blasius relates of the Russians. If he were mode-

rate in the use of liquors, the safety of the Europeans might often be very precarious during the stay of the numerous caravans from remote parts of the interior.

However extensive the caravans may be, the people invariably walk in single file, partly on account of the narrowness of the paths, but chiefly from prudential motives, because, if they were at all scattered, a wild beast might easily seize a victim. The negroes who head the caravans always have bells hanging about them, which make a tingling noise at every step, and startle or frighten any wild beast that may happen to be lurking by the road-side; the rear is also brought up by men wearing bells.

It is not always easy, at first sight, to distinguish the few slaves who are intended for sale; they are frequently mixed with the caravan, walk in the line with the rest, and, like them, carry goods; but some-

times they follow the train with their hands tied behind their backs, or with ropes round their necks. If the caravan consists of only a few individuals, conducting a large body of slaves, they are compelled to adopt measures to insure their own safety, and to provide against running the risk of being murdered in their sleep. In such cases, the slave-leader is provided with a long pole, which is furnished with a kind of fork at the end, into which the neck of the slaves is fixed, the other end is fastened to the body of the leader, who, in this manner, always remains at a safe distance, so that he can, without apprehension, lie down to sleep; at which time the hands of the slave are bound behind his back, that he may not take the opportunity of relieving himself of the fork about his neck.

If the slaves are very numerous, they are fastened to each other with chains or

ropes about their necks, and their hands bound; the drivers are of course always well armed, and, on the slightest appearance of danger, will save their own lives by sacrificing those of their slaves. We have before stated, that it is extremely rare for a large body of slaves to be brought into the town in open daylight, for the purpose of being sold. This is usually done under the covert of the darkness and silence of night; then those unhappy creatures, who have been 'kidnapped in slumber, bartered for a toy,' are secreted in various parts of the town and its vicinity, till their numbers are sufficiently swelled, and very frequently the fact of their having been concealed is not known till after the departure of the slave-ship. The indispensable necessity for this secresy on the part of the slave-dealers was evident, from the frequent intercourse of my host with the English vessels which were cruising in

the vicinity, the officers of which always met with a most welcome reception at his house.

After my eye had been satiated with looking at the caravans, I either took short rambles among the defiles, or visited patients and other persons in the town. At eight o'clock we all assembled at breakfast, which generally consisted of baked calves' feet, the unripe pods of cayenne pepper seethed in bouillon, or of boiled snails—some species of *purpura*. Strong wines, which are rendered necessary by the extreme heat, are indulged in without restraint; red Lisbon is first taken, and the glasses are constantly replenished by a little slave. Donna Catarina partook almost as freely as we did, and I could not help feeling surprised at the large quantity which the hot climate enabled, even delicate women, to take, without any visible effects being produced. Immediately after

the substantial part of the meal, tea was handed round; but here, as elsewhere, it was served without milk, for on the whole Portuguese coast it is considered poisonous, or at least dangerous. The pet monkey, which had been playing in the arms of his female attendant behind our chairs during breakfast, was then placed upon the table, to pick up the scattered crumbs, and play his antics for our diversion.

After breakfast, we entered upon no active occupation, except, perhaps, some trifling business about the house;—we looked through the telescope on to the sea, or watched the flag hoisted on the fortification of San Miguel for the signal of a ship approaching the harbour; or our hostess amused herself with the chastisement of her slaves, who, as a matter of course, had invariably committed some fault; after this, each retired to rest, and did not rise again till noon; but I always occupied

myself with visiting the several ships, which, however, were in a very healthy state.

About twelve o'clock we again met at luncheon, which was comprised of English cheese and porter, and then lay down to sleep till four o'clock, when we commenced the real business of the day with a substantial dinner.

Our house being celebrated for the excellent table kept by our host, we were seldom without visitors at this time, but although they gave some variety to the daily uniformity, I must confess, that from the circumscribed interest of each person, and the general want of education, our conversation could very seldom be termed instructive. The repast began by the hostess repeating the names of her guests at full length, and drinking their health; a courtesy which was of course responded to by all; and then followed a string of

unmeaning speeches and flatteries, until the stock of compliments, in which the Portuguese language is so rich, was completely exhausted.

This ceremony over, the cook was generally summoned, and informed whether his art had gained him praise or punishment; the latter of which, at all events, was never withheld. If the physician wished to sell any slaves, they were ordered in, and he selected this time for bargaining for them; praise or blame was bestowed without reserve, while the poor wretch was passively awaiting the decision of his fate from the cold-blooded dealers, of whom it might in truth be said, that in their breasts beat—

"Hearts dead to sympathy, alive to gain,
Hard from impunity, with avarice cold,
Sordid as earth, insensible as gold."

The desert always consisted of an ample selection of the finest fruits, especially

cachew-nuts, oranges, and mangoes. A cup of indigenous coffee having been presented to each person after dinner, the company generally took advantage of the refreshing coolness of the evening to enjoy a little walk, after which, till one o'clock in the morning, the time was consumed in playing cards! Though no great attention was paid to temperance in the course of the day, it was very strictly observed during this long period, for nothing was ever offered except lemonade, to which the physician, immediately before going to rest, added a glass of gin and water, a precaution to which, in his opinion, he was indebted for the preservation of his life!

To the very last moment, three or four of the youngest slaves sat on the ground in the adjoining apartment, waiting in case they should be summoned, and ever on the watch, to pick up any thing

that might fall upon the floor. If the unhappy little things, from four to eight years of age, were unable to resist the influence of sleep, the application of the universal remedy was not delayed for a moment, and the last sound which was daily heard in that house, was the wail of these poor young children, each of whom was indeed—

a child of tears,
Cradled in care and woe."

There are no places of public amusement whatever, in Loanda and its vicinity, unless, indeed, an indifferent eating-house for the soldiers of the garrison, a billiard-table, and a low gin-shop, can be thus designated; but these are of course not frequented by the upper classes. These find no substitute for this lack of amusement, save in the houses which are inhabited by single women, who, besides

their own trade, receive good payment for wine and liquors. Although the appearance of the greater number of these women is far from attractive, and their sunken cheeks and yellow teint, scarcely relieved by the faint sparkle of their dark eyes, bear testimony to the fearful ravages which the climate has contributed to make on their beauty, they, nevertheless, seem to reap a rich harvest. The number of Europeans belonging to this class is small; probably, not exceeding ten or twelve, who are all either Spaniards or Portuguese. Every young negress, though she be a slave, has her own lover, who always manifests extreme jealousy at any interference; but the moment she marries, she is pledged to the strictest laws of honour and faithfulness, and the reply, 'I am a married woman,' at once puts a stop to any further advances.

All the resident negroes of Loanda are

Roman Catholics, or at least boast of being such; and though some few among them sanction the custom, that an unbaptised negro may have as many wives as he can afford to support, yet the woman does not presume upon this unacknowledged right of her husband; and from the moment that she unites herself to him in marriage, she cuts the thread of every former connexion so completely, that we might almost believe that the law was still in existence, which unconditionally inflicted upon the unfaithful civilised negro wife the punishment of death. It would be well if the European ladies in Loanda, even those of the highest rank, were to take a lesson from their sable sisters; they ought to be an example to the negresses in their married life, whereas, the very reverse is the case. The rage, the unbounded passion of the Portuguese of the coast to vie with each other in wealth, silences every other,

nay, the most sacred feelings; so that even a husband's jealousy is appeased, if, by the unfaithfulness of his wife, he may gain a few poor paltry pieces of gold. I myself witnessed the delight with which a Portuguese, high in office, received a head-dress of gold and pearls, the payment of another European, for having been permitted to enjoy his wife's company for a short time; although this circumstance was known to every body, neither the man nor his wife evinced the slightest reserve in exhibiting to me their ill-gotten guerdon and manifesting the liveliest joy.

The Governor has a dance every Sunday evening in the palace, to which all the principal inhabitants who are not so unfortunate as to be out of favour with his Excellency are invited. The elevated position of the representative of Portugal renders this admission to court so honourable, that the uninvited look with envy on

those who are thus favoured, and this gives rise to many odious intrigues. As soon as the execrable military-band strikes up, the Governor enters the saloon to open the ball with a fandango; but he seldom does the company the honour of going through the whole of the first dance, and generally delegates his aid-de-camp to supply his place for the rest of the evening.

The tone which prevails in these parties is naturally not very refined, in consequence of the great diversity of the persons who compose them, and his Excellency may well be excused, if he finds no pleasure in staying among them for any length of time. A heterogenous throng of blacks, whites, and mulattos, all equally proud of the honour which they enjoy, are here mingled together; among the characters in this motly group, we find a female richly adorned with gold and jewellery, who came to these shores

not many years ago, from a province in the interior, as an unhappy slave, and subsequently by her beauty and her wiles, obtained both liberty and riches. Here was a man who had received his first and only education as a cabin-boy, or sailor, and came as a prisoner on board a slave-ship to this coast, where he soon made his fortune. A third, banished from Lisbon, for some piece of roguery, and who had been educated and trained in the streets of his native town, here recovered his character and acquired so much property that he thinks himself entitled to assume great importance. A fourth, had his reasons for running away from a company of strolling actors in Madeira, and now carries on a more lucrative kind of trade here. There were possibly some among them whose mind and understanding was rather more cultivated; but at all events, these were so few in number that they

exerted no visible influence on the company. In one respect, however, they were all equal, for I doubt whether there was a single exception,—they were all slave-dealers, who would not shrink from the commission of any crime, if it tended to promote their interests.

Such are the elements of which society consists at Loanda, and a stranger cannot for a moment forget by what company he is surrounded.

Dancing is generally kept up till eleven o'clock, and, during the evening, tea and emonade are handed about, according to the custom of the country, with plain wheaten cakes, made by Portuguese bakers, settled in the town. The black bearers, meantime, lie near their tipoia, in front of the palace, waiting for the moment when the party breaks up. The company take leave of each other with ridiculously formal compliments, and those who are anxious

to inspire others with an idea of their consequence, lie down in their tipoia, and are carried home surrounded by a train of negroes, as torch-bearers and attendants.

These Sunday-parties are the only fêtes given by the Court, and the Governor's household cannot therefore be very expensive, while the advantage which he derives from his situation must be considerable. Indeed, his establishment is far too simple, and by no means corresponds with the high situation which he holds, and with his lofty pretensions; and, considering the frequent visits of negro chiefs from the interior, with their numerous suites, a rather more splendid style of living might be advantageous.

APPENDIX (A.)

(Vide p. 77.)

BENGUELA.

BENGUELA is bounded on the north by Angola, from which it is divided by the river Congo. It is said to have formed one of the seventeen provinces of the kingdom of Congo, of which Angola was the chief. It, however, recovered its independence prior to the conquest of this coast by the Portuguese, towards the close of the 14th century, when it was again reduced to a tributary province. Little is known of these countries up to the year 1589, when they were visited by Andrew Battel, an English navigator, who was sent prisoner to Angola by the Portuguese, and lived in that part of Africa from 1589 to 1607. His singular accounts of the country are

given by Purchas, together with the relation of the Capuchin Friars, Michael Angelo di Gatina and Dionisio Carli di Piacenza, who came here in 1667, and of Padre Geronimo Merolla di Sorrento, who joined the Portuguese mission at Benguela, in 1682. In 1785, Gregorio Mendes, with a party of about thirty Europeans, and 1000 natives, made an expedition of discovery into the interior of Benguela. They set out from San Felipe de Benguela, and proceeded along the coast till they reached the Rio dos Mortes. Passing along the banks of that river, they appear to have penetrated through the interior by a semicircular sweep, till they again reached the coast at the mouth of the Copororo. They represent the soil as very fertile, and capable of capital cultivation, and supporting large herds of black cattle, sheep, and goats. The country through which they passed, was every where inhabited, and the people in general received them with great friendship. They passed through some magnificent forests, and met with large lakes, both of salt and fresh water. The

various dialects spoken by the inhabitants, though dissimilar to the Lingua Bunda, were, nevertheless, perfectly intelligible to those who were conversant with that language.

The coast of Benguela was surveyed by Captain Vidal and Commodore Owen, in 1825—27, and their accounts are well worthy of attention. It appeared from the statement of the Governor, that Benguela was then rapidly declining; but, that some years back, it had enjoyed a greater trade than San Paulo de Loanda, having then an annual export of 20,000 slaves. Benguela appeared to be the most southern of the Portuguese settlements, and the Governor said that the natives of the interior would not permit the Portuguese to enter their territories. The treatment of the slaves at that time was peculiarly cruel. Commodore Owen says, "We had here an opportunity of seeing bond slaves of both sexes chained together in pairs. About one hundred of these unhappy beings had just arrived from a great distance in the interior. Many more were mere skeletons, labouring

under every misery that want and fatigue could produce. In some, the fetters had, by their constant action, worn through the lacerated flesh to the bare bone, the ulcerated wound having become the resort of myriads of flies, which had deposited their eggs in the gangrenous cavities."—Vol. ii. p. 234.

APPENDIX (B.)

(Vide p. 86.)

THE GIAGAS

The country immediately to the east of Congo appears to be that of the Giagas, a race of bushmen, whose ferocity is much dwelt upon in the early accounts of this country, and who still seem to be the terror of their more peaceful neighbours. Cavazzi says, that before his time the numerous herds of European cattle and sheep in Benguela had almost perished, partly in con-

sequence of the impurity of the water, but more especially by the devastations of the Giagas, a race of fierce savages, by whom the country had been frequently invaded. Both Cavazzi and Cannecattem state, that the Giages are a people of Matempa, or Matemba, and that they derive their name from one of their queens, Gingha, or Anne Zinga, or Gongo Amena, who was engaged in various wars with the Portuguese.

APPENDIX (C.)

(Vide p. 107.)

PALM WINE.

Palm wine is procured by tapping the palmyra (borassus) at night, in two or three places, when the juicy liquor exudes much more copiously than during the day-time. When fresh from the tree, it is not unlike sweet cyder, and constitutes a wholesome beverage, much liked by the natives. There are three distinct species of palmyra; one of which yields a much sweeter

juice than the others; and when this is fermented, by the natives, it becomes a very intoxicating liquor. The palm-trees are very tall, and Tuckey says, " are ascended by means of a flexible hoop, which incloses, at the same time, the body of the person intending to mount, and the stem of the tree, against the latter of which the feet are pressed, while the back rests against the hoop. At each step the hoop is moved upwards with the hand, and, in this manner, the natives ascend and descend the highest trees with great expedition. Should the hoop give way, the consequences must be fatal.

APPENDIX (D.)

(Vide page 148.)

MORTALITY OCCASIONED BY THE DETENTION OF THE NEGROES ON THE COAST.

The detention of the negroes on the coast, in consequence of the market being overstocked,

or of the non-arrival of the slavers which are to transport them to another shore, is a melancholy and notorious cause of mortality among them. The alleged excuse is the expense thereby incurred, hence they are allowed barely sufficient to maintain life, or are doomed to a wretched destruction. The evidence of persons of unquestionable veracity, furnishes a long black catalogue of the waste of life in those awful barracoons.

> "What pen can trace, what accents tell,
> The horrors of that earthly hell?"

We will subjoin only one or two: Richard Lander says, 'Badagry being a general mart for the sale of slaves to European merchants, it not unfrequently happens that the markets are rather overstocked with human beings, or that no buyers are to be found, in which case the maintenance of the unhappy slaves devolves solely on the government. The king then causes an examination to be made, when the sickly as well as the old and infirm are carefully selected

and chained by themselves in one of the slave-yards (barracoons,) five of which containing upwards of a thousand slaves of both sexes were at Badagry during my residence there, and next day the majority of these poor wretches are pinioned and conveyed to the banks of the river, where, having arrived, a weight of some kind is appended to their necks and being rowed in canoes to the middle of the stream, they are flung into the water and left to perish by the pitiless Badagrians. Slaves, who for other reasons are rejected by the merchants, undergo the same cruel fate, or are left to endure more lively torture at the sacrifices, by which means hundreds of human beings are annually destroyed." Lander's Records, Vol. ii. p. 250. Captain Cook, in a letter to the Editor of the Standard, dated July 16th, 1838, says, "The facts which I am now about to state, occurred in August, 1837, and came under my own observation, and to all of which I am ready to bear testimony on oath if required. Slaves, to the number of 250 or thereabouts, male and

female, adults and children, were brought from Senna, a Portuguese settlement, at some distance, in the interior of Africa, to be sold at Quilimane, there being at that time several slavers lying in the river. These unfortunate beings were consigned to a person holding a high civil appointment under the Portugese government (the collector of customs.) These poor creatures were from a part of the country where it is said that the natives make bad slaves; consequently, and, as there was abundance of human-flesh in the market, they did not meet with a ready sale. The wretch to whom they were consigned, actually refused them sustenance of any kind. Often have I been compelled to witness the melancholy spectacle, of from twelve to twenty of my fellow-creatures, without distinction of age or sex, chained together with a heavy iron chain round their necks, wandering about the town in quest of food to satisfy the cravings of nature, picking up bones and garbage of every description from the dung-heaps, snails from the fields, and frogs from the

ditches: and when the tide receded, collecting the shell-fish that were left on the bank of the river, or sitting round a fire, roasting and eagerly devouring the sea-weed. Again and again, have I seen one or more of these poor creatures when unable from sickness to walk, crawling on his hands and knees, accompanying the gang to which he was chained, when they went in search of their daily food, for one could not move without the whole. In consequence of this treatment, they soon became so emaciated that the slave-dealers would not purchase them on any terms; in this state, horrid as it must appear, the greater part were left to perish without food, medicine or clothing, for the little piece of coarse cotton cloth worn by a few of the females did not deserve the name, and could answer no other purpose than to lodge the vermin, with which they were covered; their bones protruding through the skin, they presented the appearance of living skeletons, lingering amidst hunger and disease, till death, their best friend, relieved most of them at once from suffering and bondage."

APPENDIX (E.)

(Vide p. 150.)

THE SUGAR-CANE.

The spontaneous growth of the sugar-cane is not confined to the vicinity of the Catumbella, or other isolated spots in Benguéla, or in the neighbouring kingdom of Angola. It luxuriates in many districts, and wherever the cultivation has been at all attended to, the cane attains a large girth and height, and the juice is of a very superior quality. In some places along the coast of Guinea, the experiment has lately been successfully tried of intermingling the sugar-cane with different kinds of grain, by which means the corn has been effectually preserved from the injurious effects of the hail. There was a time when Portugal understood her interests better than she now does; when

she encouraged the cultivation of sugar as a branch of trade, which was so lucrative, that the island of St. Thomé alone annually freighted forty vessels with sugar, and contained no less than seventeen sugar-houses, employing from two hundred to three hundred natives in each 'ingehenio,' or manufactory. Let the experiment be made; let the requisite machinery be sent out; and a manufactory established under the direction of skilful and energetic men, and the results will soon prove, that if the system were generally introduced, Africa, instead of importing the sugar made b[illegible]orrid[illegible]cured the enslaved children in the Brazils, would be able to raise enough, not only to supply her own demands, but to export immense quantities to the European markets, which, in return, would furnish her with many valuable and necessary commodities.

APPENDIX (F.)

(Vide p. 173.)

CULTIVATION OF THE SOIL.

THERE is no country in the universe so susceptible of general cultivation as Africa; and her productions, both on the surface of her soil [illegible] ...st extent, are more numerous, varied, [illegible] valuable, than those of any other quarter of the globe. It is true, that her coastal climate is almost synonymous with unhealthiness; and this it is which has enshrouded Africa in a veil of horrors, which has placed an apparently almost insuperable barrier between Europe and herself; but with the exception of the Deltas of a few of her great tropical rivers it is salubrious, and, in many parts, far superior to the climate of Asia and America, and there can be no qu[illegible] ...plication of Euro-

pean art and science would counteract many of the pestiferous influences which so often prove fatal to the white man.

Danger, difficulty, and discouragement, are centred in the first attempt; but that these are not invincible has been abundantly evidenced by many a British philanthropist, under other, and no less trying circumstances: nay, he has even fearlessly attempted it in Africa herself; and, although that stupendous undertaking has, for a time, proved abortive, its seeds are germinating, and will, ere long, infallibly yield an abundant harvest.

The very opening up of the immense resources which Africa contains within herself by means of the Niger expedition—to say nothing of the sympathies which it awakened in the breast of rich and poor, bond and free, are of themselves of inestimable value in paving the way for those who shall follow up this noble undertaking.

That the resources which Africa concentrates within herself are vast, and capable of the highest improvement, is unquestionable; and

that her children have been degraded, and rendered unfit, by Europeans, from availing themselves of these natural advantages, is equally unquestionable. To every reflecting, and especially to every Christian mind, the two-fold duty arising from this position of things is clear, and he who adds energy of action to enlightenment of thought and humanity of spirit, will not rest satisfied till some decisive effort be made for the civilization and evangelization of that vast portion of God's wondrous creation.

To take no higher ground than the physical capabilities of the soil. In order to convince the negro of this simple fact, his own dormant powers of thought and action must be called into exercise, and his understanding, when thus enlightened, must be convinced of the wonderful results of labour, when under skilful, judicious, and energetic direction.

Sir Fowell Buxton says truly, "Africa has within herself resources which, duly developed, would compensate for the gains of the slave-trade, if these were ten times as great as they

are. But it must never be forgotten, that these resources are nothing, unless they be fairly and fully called into action." "By our seeds and our implements, and our skill in abridging labour and subduing difficulty, we shall place before the natives, in a form which they cannot mistake, the vast benefits they are likely to derive from intercourse with us; and they will speedily perceive that it is their interest to protect those strangers who possess secrets which can make their land produce so unexpected and rich a harvest." "The ransom for Africa will be found in her fertile soil; and the moral worth of her people will advance as they become better instructed, more secure, more industrious, and more wealthy."

What Africa stands in need of, and what she would thankfully receive from Europe, is the energetic application of European knowledge, moral and religious education, and the capital requisite for commencing the undertaking. Let intelligence and Christianity go hand in hand to the work. England has every

requisite committed to her keeping; all that remains for her to do, is to apply these requisites, and the results will be as immense as the duty is imperative, and the privilege unspeakable.

APPENDIX. (G.)

(Vide p. 182.)

THE INEFFICIENCY OF THE MISSIONS ESTABLISHED BY THE ROMAN CATHOLICS.

THOUGH the Portuguese were the first among the European nations to send out missionaries to convert the heathen to Christianity, a work in which they undoubtedly manifested great zeal for the temporal and spiritual welfare of those whom they sought to enlighten, it seems surprising that so few permanent effects of their endeavours are now to be seen. Instead of being able to trace the gradual progress and

wider diffusion of gospel truth among benighted nations, we here find, as one author observes, 'deserted missionary stations, and churches diminished in numbers, stripped of their former splendour, and, if not totally forsaken, yet very scantily frequented, except on some extraordinary occasion of excitement or curiosity.' Nor is this strange result peculiar to the extensive Portuguese possessions in western Africa. Of the once flourishing missions of the Jesuits and Franciscans in Paraguay, Peru, Brazil, &c. the greater part have long since been destroyed or abandoned: and although this may in part be attributed to the fierce hostilities of the savage tribes, secure in the inmost recesses of their vast impenetrable forests, where they baffled the intrepidity and self-devotion of the Franciscan Friars; yet the little that remains of the fruit of their labours, affords no very cheering view of the Christianity which they propagated among the heathen.

Professor Poeppig, in his admirable travels in 'Chili, Peru, and on the River Amazon,'

describing an assemblage of Cholonian Indians, summoned by the missionary of Uchiza to an annual festivity, says, 'the chief inducement that drew them together was probably the approaching religious festival; for, unhappily, the Christian religion, though established among them above an hundred years, is valued by the Cholonian Indians only because the numerous saints' days in the Romish calender afford them opportunities for indulging in the fatal propensity of drinking and revelling.

'It does not appear that in Africa the Portuguese missionaries encountered the same opposition as in South America. To what cause then must the want of permanent and satisfactory results of their labours be ascribed? Mainly, if not exclusively, to the imperfect and erroneous system of instruction which they pursued. Anxious to extend the authority of the Pope, rather than to impart a knowledge of the word of God—to teach subserviency to the dogmas of Rome, rather than submission to the doctrine of Christ—they were content to desig-

nate, and to receive as converts, those who would consent to practise certain external formularies, while they suffered them to retain some of their superstitious rites—indulging them in showy processions and gaudy representations, which were calculated to inflame the mind and to charm the fancy, but not "to teach the ways of God to man."

When, therefore, from whatever cause, the labours of the missionaries were suspended, or ceased altogether—as for instance, on the expulsion of the Jesuits in 1767, the converts retained little more of the semblance of Christianity than that of assuming some Portuguese name, making the sign of the cross, bowing before a picture or image of the Virgin, in place of their idol or fetish, and choosing for their patron some Romish saint, whom they invoked on all occasions, not merely as an intercessor, but as one who was vested with plenary power to grant their petitions.

Dr. Forbes, in his account of California, describes the process of conversion practised by

the Roman Catholics, as consisting in the offer of a mess of pottage and holy-water: the acceptance of the latter being the condition of the grant of the former, and its reception a proof of faith: attendance to prayers and meats, was the exterior evidence of conversion. The same, or a similar process, was probably employed in the Portuguese African settlements, and we cannot, therefore, be surprised that the missions have gradually vanished away,

> "And, like the baseless fabric of a vision,
> Left not a rack behind."

It is a matter of deep thankfulness that our Protestant missonaries, imbued with a hearty interest for that benighted land, have of late years been permitted to enter upon this vast and important field of Christian labour, and, as their teaching is founded upon the only sure foundation, Christ Jesus, and him crucified, there is every reason to expect that a blessing will be vouchsafed to them; and though the number of their converts may be small in pro-

portion to their labours, and the progress of *Christianising is less rapid than the summary* process of Charlemagne, who is said to have driven thousands of Saxons into the Elbe, by way of baptizing them, yet it will unquestionably be far more satisfactory in its immediate effects, both on the temporal and spiritual welfare of the converts, and will continue to shed its benign influence on their descendants,

"Even to the years of many generations."

APPENDIX (H.)

(Vide p. 222.)

CAPTURE OF A PORTUGUESE SLAVER BY A PORTUGUESE MAN-OF-WAR.

This and similar cases evidence a certain measure of vigilance on the part of the Portuguese government, to check the enormities of the slave-trade; but, alas! they are mere isolated cases, and are next to futile in stemming the

virulence of that disease which is drying up the vital energies of Africa. It is a mere mockery of the observance of the treaty; for, to this day Portugal sells her colours as well as papers, at a fixed price, to any nation that chooses to purchase them; nay, from the official returns made to her Majesty's Government, we learn that the Governor of Angola has gone even beyond this, and, not content with hiring out the flag of his nation, he has set up as a slave-dealer himself, and "has further established an impost of 200,000 reis to be paid to him for every vessel which embarks slaves from Angola, it being understood that, upon payment of the above-mentioned sum, no impediment to the illicit trade shall be interposed by the Governor, nor any further risk be incurred by the persons engaged in the trade." With such connivance, on the part of the local government, it is not surprising, that, instead of a diminution in the trade, we find an increase in the exportation of slaves along that line of coast. Notwithstanding all the manœuvres on the part of the slave-dealers

to elude the vigilance of the English, no less than thirty-three vessels were captured in 1841, on the coast of Angola, during a six months' cruise, by H. M. ship Fantome, having the Waterwitch and the Brisk under her orders. The number of slaves liberated amounted to 3427. Most of the vessels were in a shocking state, confined and crowded: one of them, a vessel of twenty tons burthen, not half the size of many of our deep fishing-boats, contained no less than 105 little children, the eldest under seven years of age, stowed like so many bales of cotton between decks, which were only *one foot eight inches in height*. In the Portuguese brigantine Corisco, 302 slaves, mostly children were crammed into a vessel of eighty tons; most of them were like living skeletons, and the small-pox and itch had broken out among them. They were despatched to St. Helena by the captain of the Waterwitch, who wrote, "I dread sending away an officer and men in such a floating pest-house."

W. & R. Woodcock, Printers, [illegible] Hackney Road